

# MarkeTips

Volume 23, Number 5  
September/October 2010



## The Business of Money

Financial Solutions from GSA  
Treasury's New Bill  
Deconstructing the Fed



## inside this issue



### The Business of Money

Today's financial climate brings a host of challenges for government agencies. You need to modernize legacy systems required for meeting fast approaching regulatory deadlines while simultaneously reducing spending. Accounting infrastructures need to be reviewed while still ensuring that your processes will meet strict audit guidelines. It all comes at once and at GSA, we know doing it all can be difficult.

So let us make it easier for you. GSA's Multiple Award Schedules (MAS) and Governmentwide Acquisition Contracts (GWACs) connect you to thousands of commercial experts able to meet any requirement. Our Financial and Business Solutions (Multiple Award Schedule 520) have pre-approved financial audit experts ready to help. Our Alliant and Schedule 70 IT contracts give you almost immediate access to both large and small IT firms who can help modernize your billing and payment systems. Find temporary accounting and legal experts on our Schedule 736, Temporary Administrative and Professional Staffing (TAPS). Whatever you need, GSA can help you get it at the best value and in full compliance with all financial, security and acquisition policies.

I have worked my entire career in GSA's Federal Acquisition Service and recently became its Commissioner. I am focused on giving you the service and tools you need to make it easy to do business with us. You will be seeing changes in the coming months but one thing will always remain the same – a commitment to using our acquisition expertise to help you achieve your missions. So let us know how we are doing and tell us what you need.

Regards,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Kempf', written over a horizontal line.

Steven J. Kempf  
Commissioner, Federal Acquisition Service



# Let's make progress **TOGETHER**



## **GSA Contracts Put You In Control**

The call to duty is urgent. With so little time to act, you need immediate solutions to meet accelerated timeframes while ensuring transparency, accountability and value. GSA's Multiple Award Schedules and Governmentwide Acquisition Contracts—and our other self-service purchasing programs and online tools—put you in control of the procurement process. We offer the quickest and easiest way to get the products and services you need from pre-qualified vendors at pre-approved competitive prices. Our contracting options provide flexibility to structure orders your way while meeting specific reporting requirements. We're here to help you quickly reinvest in America and move forward to recovery.



GSA is here to help: [gsa.gov/recoverysolutions](http://gsa.gov/recoverysolutions) or (800) 488-3111



**U.S. General Services Administration**

# MarkeTips

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### GSA GLOBAL SUPPLY™





# Financial Solutions You Can Count On from GSA

Today's federal financial managers face increasingly complex financial challenges. They must provide more financial information than ever before while complying with many regulatory mandates, using existing resources. The increased emphasis on accountability and transparency in government add to the importance of having strong financial management programs in place.

# GSA Multiple Award Schedule Program



GSA realizes that financial excellence and accountability require a broad assortment of expertise. GSA offers solutions through the Multiple Award Schedules Program that provide federal agencies convenient access to knowledgeable financial experts.

For fast, flexible, cost-effective procurement, GSA's Multiple Award Schedules meet your acquisition challenges while achieving your agency's mission. The program offers agencies a broad array of benefits ultimately saving time and agency dollars.

## **Speed**

Shorten procurement lead-times and reduce your administrative burden and costs with quick and easy access to pre-qualified, industry leading contractors.

## **Selection**

Compete among a vast selection of expert service providers to meet your mission needs from the largest, most reliable government procurement source.

## **Flexibility**

Tailor RFQs and orders to your unique purchasing requirements and negotiate pricing below our ceiling rates to fit your specific needs and budget.

## **Efficiency**

Streamline contracting while maintaining FAR compliance when you issue orders directly to pre-qualified contractors.

## **Value**

Simplify your procurements by tapping into our pool of proven sources that have already been determined responsible and technically capable—at fair and reasonable prices.

## **Transparency**

Leverage a suite of eTools to identify qualified, small business contractors and maximize competition.

## **Manage Your Procurement**

Your agency contracting officer(s) will retain control of your procurement including requirements development, evaluation, and award of the order.



# FABS for Sound Financial Management

## GSA's Multiple Award Schedule 520 (FABS)

The Financial and Business Solutions (FABS) Schedule offerings include areas as diverse as accounting, auditing, data protection, project management, and financial consulting. You may also use FABS to access asset management, financial management, business information, financial program management, and grants management support services. These are just some of the ways FABS can help your agency optimize its financial management strategy.

### Optimize Return on Investment

Hire a consultant to assess an asset portfolio and develop strategies for sales and retention that optimize the government's return on investment within resource constraints. After making strategic decisions, FABS can then be used to manage, service, and sell various government assets such as loans, revenue streams, real property, and other assets.

### Protect Your Assets

Engage a contractor to conduct background checks for hiring purposes, process business and consumer loan applications, obtain past performance history, and assess the financial stability of other potential contractors.





## Identify Improper Payments

FABS can be used to conduct annual risk assessments and identify programs that may be susceptible to improper payments.

## Recovery Audits

Conduct payment recovery audits of contracts and various programs and activities including fraudulent claims, grants, benefits, loans, and contract payments. This aspect of FABS can be a key tool in responding to the newly enacted Improper Payment Elimination and Recovery Act of 2010.

## Meet Transparency and Oversight Requirements

Every agency must respond to increased demands for greater visibility on how it spends funds. Agencies use FABS to perform financial performance audits in support of this important responsibility.

## Obtain Core Financial Services

Some financial functions are fundamental to every agency, such as budgeting, auditing, and accounting. FABS provides agencies with access to experts in private industry who can perform these key financial services.



# Schedule 520

The following offerings are available through FABS:



## Asset Management Services:

| SIN Number | SIN Name                            |
|------------|-------------------------------------|
| 520 1      | Program Financial Advisor           |
| 520 2      | Transaction Specialist              |
| 520 3      | Due Diligence and Support Services  |
| 520 4      | Debt Collection                     |
| 520 5      | Loan Servicing and Asset Management |
| 520 6      | Professional Legal Services         |
|            |                                     |

## Financial Management & Audit Services:

| SIN Number | SIN Name  |
|------------|---|
| 520 7      | Financial and Performance Audits  |
| 520 8      | Complementary Audit Services  |
| 520 9      | Recovery Audits   |
| 520 10     | Transportation Audits – Small Business Set Aside                              |
| 520 11     | Accounting  |
| 520 12     | Budgeting   |
| 520 13     | Complementary Financial Management Services                                   |
| 520 14     | Audit and Financial Training Services – Small Business Set Aside              |
| 520 15     | Outsourcing Recurring Commercial Activities for Financial Management Services |
|            |   |

## Business Information Services and Safeguarding Personal Data

| SIN Number | SIN Name                                |
|------------|---|
| 520 16     | Business Information Services           |
| 520 17     | Risk Assessment and Mitigation Services |
| 520 18     | Independent Risk Analysis               |
| 520 19     | Data Breach Analysis                    |
| 520 20     | Comprehensive Protection Solutions      |

### Program Management for Financial Services:

| SIN Number | SIN Name                    |
|------------|-----------------------------|
| 520 21     | Program Management Services |
|            |                             |

### Grants Management Support Services

| SIN Number | SIN Name                           |
|------------|------------------------------------|
| 520 22     | Grants Management Support Services |



## Spotlight on Grants Management Support Services

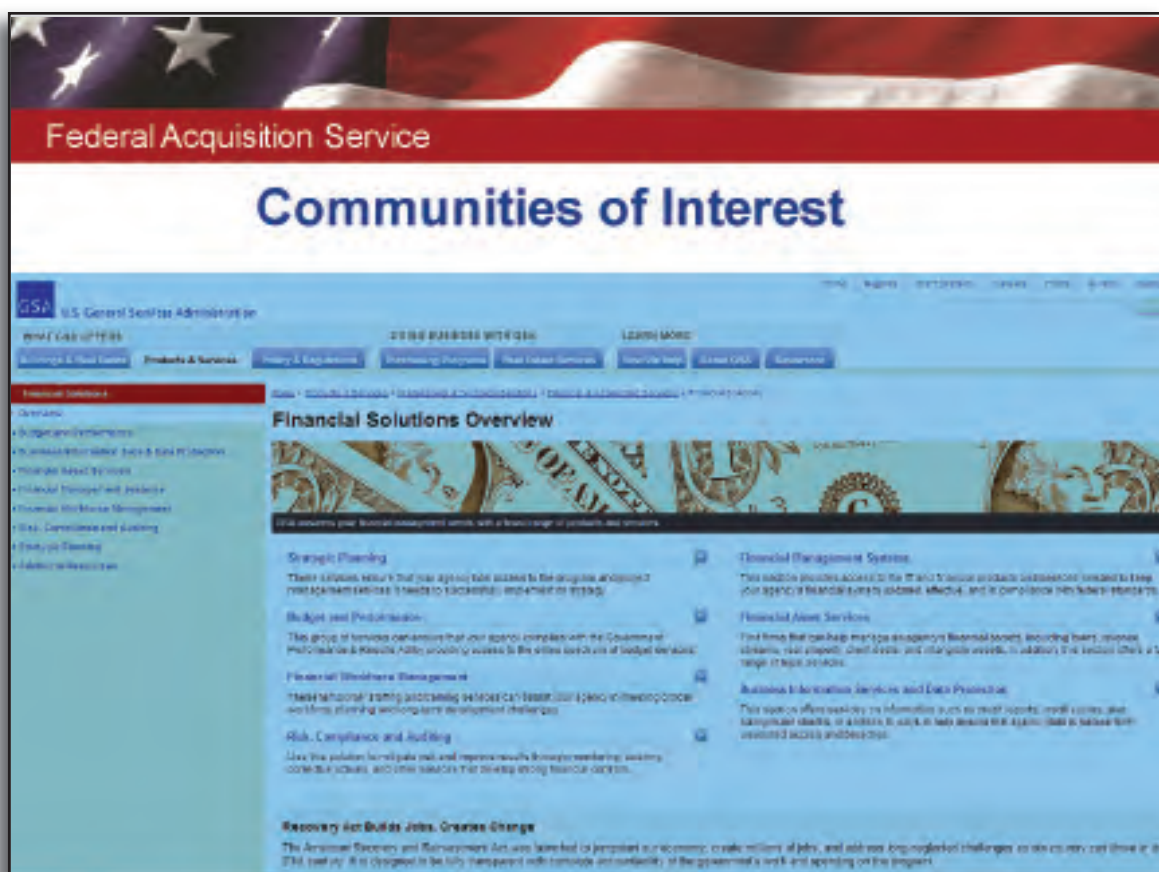
Grants Management Support Services is the most recent addition to the FABS schedule. This new offering provides federal agencies with direct access to industry experts who can assist with managing and supporting grants management programs. The solution offers assistance to federal agencies in all phases of grants management, excluding activities that are considered inherently governmental. Grants Management Support Services available through FABS include:

- Assisting with the grant application, evaluation, and recommendation process
- Managing the period of performance schedule, while facilitating the required grants management processes
- Assessing compliance of grantees' respective business and financial management systems
- Helping agencies ensure grantees' responsible, accountable use of grant funds, and full compliance with grant requirements
- Evaluating ongoing status reports, final reports, and other deliverable products required under the grant program
- Assisting with grant close-out procedures



# GSA – Your Total Solution for Sound Financial Management

In addition to FABS, there are other GSA schedules that are part of the financial solution set for federal agencies such as Mission Oriented Business Integrated Services (MOBIS) and IT Schedule 70. To assist managers and staff in federal agency financial functions with finding the right solutions, GSA has established a “Financial Community of Interest” at [www.gsa.gov/financialsolutions](http://www.gsa.gov/financialsolutions) to provide convenient access to all the schedules that a federal agency should consider in searching for financial expertise. This community of interest is designed around the primary challenges facing financial managers and matches the appropriate schedule offerings with each area of concern.



Turn to the multitude of services offered by GSA to achieve financial and business excellence. These valuable and diverse offerings will provide your agency with direct access to commercial experts who can thoroughly and completely address the needs of the federal financial community.

## Mission Oriented Business Integrated Services (MOBIS)

GSA's MOBIS Schedule offers you a full range of management and consulting services that can improve your agency's performance with financial efforts and support endeavors in meeting mission goals as they relate to finance. Through MOBIS, GSA can help you improve performance and accomplish mission goals through the use of specialized consulting and training services, facilitation, surveys, competitive sourcing, and project management.

## IT Products and Services

The Information Technology (IT) Schedule 70 was established by GSA to assist agencies like yours with the procurement of IT products, services, and solutions in support of your agency's financial missions. GSA schedules grant your agency direct access to commercial experts who can thoroughly address your needs.

GSA provides easy access to a broad range of solutions to make it convenient for you to find exactly the financial and business expertise and supporting services you need. This approach simplifies your access to thousands of pre-qualified service providers, allowing you to tailor orders to meet your unique requirements and letting your agency negotiate pricing below our ceiling rates. Whatever your financial-related need, GSA can assist you in accessing the experts needed for all phases of your agency's financial practices.

GSA is committed to work in partnership with agencies to achieve acquisition excellence and provide comprehensive resources for sound financial management solutions.

For more information visit us on the web at [www.gsa.gov/financialsolutions](http://www.gsa.gov/financialsolutions).







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# Deconstructing the FED



*The Federal Reserve System is the central bank of the United States. It was founded by Congress in 1913 to provide the nation with a safer, more flexible, and more stable monetary and financial system. Over the years, its role in banking and the economy has expanded.*



During the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth century, financial panics plagued the United States, leading to bank failures and business bankruptcies that severely disrupted the economy. The failure of the nation's banking system to provide funding to troubled depository institutions contributed significantly to the economy's vulnerability to financial panics. Short-term credit is an important source of liquidity when a bank experiences unexpected and widespread withdrawals during a financial panic.



A particularly severe crisis in 1907 prompted Congress to establish the National Monetary Commission, which set forth proposals to create an institution that would help prevent and contain financial disruptions of this kind. After considerable debate, Congress passed the Federal Reserve Act “to provide for the establishment of Federal reserve banks, to furnish an elastic currency, to afford means of rediscounting commercial paper, to establish a more effective supervision of banking in the United States, and for other purposes.”

President Woodrow Wilson signed the act into law on December 23, 1913. Soon after the creation of the Federal Reserve, it became clear that the act had broader implications for national economic and financial policy. As time has passed, further legislation has clarified and supplemented the original purposes.

Congress has also adopted legislation defining the primary objectives of national economic policy. These objectives include economic growth in line with the economy’s potential to expand; a high level of employment; stable prices (that is, stability in the purchasing power of the dollar); and moderate long-term interest rates.

The Federal Reserve System is considered to be an independent central bank because its decisions do not have to be ratified by the President or anyone else in the executive branch of government. However, the system is

subject to oversight by the U.S. Congress. The Federal Reserve must work within the framework of the overall objectives of economic and financial policy established by the government; therefore, the description of the system as “independent within the government” is more accurate.

### **Structure of the System**

Congress designed the structure of the Federal Reserve System to give it a broad perspective on the economy and on economic activity in all parts of the nation. It is a federal system, composed of a central governmental agency – the Board of Governors – in Washington, DC, and 12 regional Federal Reserve Banks. The board and the Reserve Banks share responsibility for supervising and regulating certain financial institutions and activities, for providing banking services to depository institutions and the federal government, and for ensuring that consumers receive adequate information and fair treatment in their business with the banking system.





A major component of the System is the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC), which is made up of the members of the Board of Governors, the president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and presidents of four other Federal Reserve Banks, who serve on a rotating basis. The FOMC oversees open market operations, which is the main tool used by the Federal Reserve to influence overall monetary and credit conditions.

The Federal Reserve implements monetary policy through its control over the federal funds rate – the rate at which depository institutions trade balances at the Federal Reserve. It exercises this control by influencing the demand for and supply of these balances through the following means:

#### **Open market operations**

The purchase or sale of securities, primarily U.S. Treasury securities, in the open market to influence the level of balances that depository institutions hold at the Federal Reserve Banks

#### **Reserve requirements**

Requirements regarding the percentage of certain deposits that depository institutions must hold in reserve in the form of cash or in an account at a Federal Reserve Bank

#### **Contractual clearing balances**

An amount that a depository institution agrees to hold at its Federal Reserve Bank in addition to any required reserve balance

#### **Discount window lending**

Extensions of credit to depository institutions made through the primary, secondary, or seasonal lending programs

Two other groups play roles in the functioning of the Federal Reserve System: depository institutions (through which monetary policy operates) and advisory committees (which make recommendations to the Board of Governors and to the Reserve Banks regarding the System's responsibilities).



*August 11, 1914. The Federal Reserve Board, taken immediately after the members were sworn in. Seated from left to right: Charles S. Hamlin, Governor; W.G. McAdoo, Secretary of the Treasury; F.A. Delano, Vice Governor. Standing: Paul M. Warburg; John Skelton Williams, Comptroller of the Currency; W.P.G. Harding and Adolf C. Miller.*

## Board of Governors

The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System is a federal government agency. The board is composed of seven members, who are appointed by the President of the United States and confirmed by the U.S. Senate. The Board of Governors is supported by a staff in Washington, DC. The board's responsibilities require thorough analysis of domestic and international financial and economic developments. The board carries out those responsibilities in conjunction with other components of the Federal Reserve System. The Board of Governors also supervises and regulates the operations of the Federal Reserve Banks, exercises broad responsibility in the nation's payments system, and administers most of the nation's laws regarding consumer credit protection.

Policy regarding open market operations is established by the FOMC. However, the Board of Governors has sole authority over changes in reserve requirements, and it must approve any change in the discount rate initiated by a Federal Reserve Bank. The board also plays a major role in the supervision and regulation of the U.S. banking system. It has supervisory responsibilities for state-chartered banks that are members of the Federal Reserve System, bank holding companies (companies that control banks), the foreign activities of member banks, the U.S. activities of foreign banks, and Edge Act and agreement corporations (limited-purpose institutions that engage in a foreign banking business). The board and, under delegated authority, the Federal Reserve Banks, supervise approximately 900 state member banks and 5,000 bank holding companies. Other federal agencies also serve as the primary federal supervisors of commercial banks: the



Office of the Comptroller of the Currency supervises national banks, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation supervises state banks that are not members of the Federal Reserve System.

Some regulations issued by the board apply to the entire banking industry, whereas others apply only to member banks, that is, state banks that have chosen to join the Federal Reserve System and national banks, which by law must be members of the System. The board also issues regulations to carry out major federal laws governing consumer credit protection, such as the Truth in Lending, Equal Credit Opportunity, and Home Mortgage Disclosure Acts. Many of these consumer protection regulations apply to various lenders outside the banking industry as well as to banks.

Members of the Board of Governors are in continual contact with other policymakers in government. They frequently testify before congressional committees on the economy, monetary policy, banking supervision and regulation, consumer credit protection, financial markets, and other matters. For instance, as required by the Federal Reserve Act, the Chairman of the Board of Governors testifies before the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and the House Committee on Financial Services on or about February 20 and July 20 of each year. The Chairman's testimony addresses the efforts, activities, objectives, and plans of the Board of Governors and the Federal Open Market Committee with respect to the conduct of monetary policy, as well as economic developments in the United States and the prospects for the future. Concurrently, the Board of Governors must submit a report on these same issues to the House of Representatives and Senate committees before which the chairperson testifies.

The board has regular contact with members of the President's Council of Economic Advisors and other key economic officials. The chairperson also meets from time to time with the President of the United States and has regular meetings with the Secretary of the Treasury.

The chairperson has formal responsibilities in the international arena as well. For example, he or she is the alternate U.S. member of the board of governors of the International Monetary Fund, a member of the board of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), and a member, along with the heads of other relevant U.S. agencies and





departments, of the National Advisory Council on International Monetary and Financial Policies. The chairperson is also a member of U.S. delegations to key international meetings, such as those of the finance ministers and central bank governors of the seven largest industrial countries – referred to as the Group of Seven, or G-7. The chairperson, other board members, and board staff members share many international responsibilities, including representing the Federal Reserve at meetings at the BIS in Basel, Switzerland, and at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in Paris, France.

One member of the Board of Governors serves as the System's representative to the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (FFIEC), which is responsible for coordinating, at the federal level, examinations of depository institutions and related policies. The FFIEC has representatives from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the National Credit Union Administration, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, and the Office of Thrift Supervision, as well.

The board publishes detailed statistics and other information about the system's activities and the economy in publications such as the quarterly Federal Reserve Bulletin, the monthly Statistical Supplement, and separate statistical releases. Through the Federal Reserve Regulatory Service, it provides materials relating to its regulatory and supervisory functions. Extensive information about the Board of Governors is available on the board's Web site ([www.federalreserve.gov](http://www.federalreserve.gov)), including the testimony and speeches of board members; actions on banking and consumer regulations and other matters; and statistics and research papers concerning economic, banking, and financial matters.

The board is audited annually by a major public accounting firm. In addition, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) generally exercises its authority to conduct a number of reviews each year to look at specific aspects of the Federal Reserve's activities.



## Federal Reserve Banks

A network of 12 Federal Reserve Banks and their branches carry out a variety of Federal Reserve System functions, including operating a nationwide payments system, distributing the nation's currency and coin, supervising and regulating member banks and bank holding companies, and serving as banker for the U.S. Treasury. Each of the 12 Reserve Banks is responsible for a particular geographic area or district of the United States. Besides carrying out functions for the system as a whole, such as administering nationwide banking and credit policies, each Reserve Bank acts as a depository for the banks in its own district and fulfills other district responsibilities.

The Board of Governors has broad oversight responsibility for the operations and activities of the Federal Reserve Banks and their branches. This authority includes oversight of the Reserve Banks' services to banks and other depository institutions and of their examination and supervision of various banking institutions. Each Federal Reserve Bank must submit its annual budget to the Board of Governors for approval. Particular types of expenditures – such as those for construction or major alterations of Reserve Bank buildings and for the salaries of Reserve Bank presidents and first vice presidents – also are subject to specific board approval.

Congress chartered the Federal Reserve Banks for a public purpose. The Reserve Banks are the operating arms of the central banking system, and they combine both public and private elements in their makeup and organization. As part of the Federal Reserve System, the banks are subject to oversight by Congress.

Each Reserve Bank has its own board of nine directors chosen from outside the bank as provided by law. The boards of the Reserve Banks are intended to represent a cross-section of banking, commercial, agricultural, industrial, and public interests within the Federal Reserve district. Boards of directors of the Reserve Banks provide the Federal Reserve System with a wealth of information on economic conditions in virtually every corner of the nation.



This information is used by the FOMC and the Board of Governors in reaching major decisions about monetary policy.

The income of the Federal Reserve System is derived primarily from the interest on U.S. government securities that it has acquired through open market operations. Other major sources of income are the interest on foreign currency investments held by the system; interest on loans to depository institutions; and fees received for services provided to depository institutions, such as check clearing, funds transfers, and automated clearinghouse operations.

After it pays its expenses, the Federal Reserve turns the rest of its earnings over to the U.S. Treasury. About 95 percent of



the Reserve Banks' net earnings have been paid into the Treasury since the Federal Reserve System began operations in 1914.

The Board of Governors contracts with an accounting firm to conduct an audit of the Reserve Banks every year, and Board staff periodically review the operations of the Reserve Banks in key functional areas. The audited combined financial statements of the Reserve Banks are published in the Board's Annual Report. The Reserve Banks, like the board, are subject to audit by the GAO; however, certain functions (such as transactions with foreign central banks and open market operations) are excluded from the GAO's audit. Each Reserve Bank has an internal auditor who is responsible to the bank's board of directors.

## Federal Open Market Committee

The FOMC is charged under law with overseeing open market operations, the principal tool of national monetary policy. These operations affect the amount of Federal Reserve balances available to depository institutions, thereby influencing overall monetary and credit conditions. The FOMC also directs operations undertaken by the Federal Reserve in foreign exchange markets.

The FOMC is composed of the seven members of the Board of Governors and five of the 12 Reserve Bank presidents. The president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York is a permanent member; the other presidents serve one-year terms on a

rotating basis. All the presidents participate in FOMC discussions, contributing to the committee's assessment of the economy and of policy options, but only the five presidents who are committee members vote on policy decisions. Under law, the FOMC determines its own internal organization and by tradition elects the Chairperson of the Board of Governors as its chair and the president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York as its vice chairperson. Formal meetings typically are held eight times each year in Washington, DC. Telephone consultations and other meetings are held when needed.





## Member Banks

The nation's commercial banks can be divided into three types according to which governmental body charters them and whether or not they are members of the Federal Reserve System. Those chartered by the federal government (through the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency in the Department of the Treasury) are national banks; by law, they are members of the Federal Reserve System. Banks chartered by the states are divided into those that are members of the Federal Reserve System (state member banks) and those that are not (state nonmember banks). State banks are not required to join the Federal Reserve System, but they may elect to become members if they meet the standards set by the Board of Governors.

Member banks must subscribe to stock in their regional Federal Reserve Bank in an amount equal to six percent of their capital and surplus, half of which must be paid in while the other half is subject to call by the Board of Governors. However, the holding of this stock does not carry with it the control and financial interest conveyed to holders of common stock in for-profit organizations. It is merely a legal obligation of Federal Reserve membership, and the stock may not be sold or pledged as collateral for loans. Member banks receive a six percent dividend annually on their stock, as specified by law, and vote for the Class-A and Class-B directors of the Reserve Bank. Stock in Federal Reserve Banks is not available for purchase by individuals or entities other than member banks.

## Advisory Committees

The Federal Reserve System uses advisory committees in carrying out its varied responsibilities. Three of these committees advise the Board of Governors directly:

## Federal Advisory Council

This council is composed of 12 representatives of the banking industry and consults with and advises the board on all matters within the board's jurisdiction.

## Consumer Advisory Council

Advises the board on the exercise of its responsibilities under the Consumer Credit Protection Act and on other matters in the area of consumer financial services. The council's membership represents the interests of consumers, communities, and the financial services industry.

## Thrift Institutions Advisory Council

The Board of Governors established this council to obtain information and views on the special needs and problems of thrift institutions. Unlike the Federal Advisory Council and the Consumer Advisory Council, the Thrift Institutions Advisory Council is not a statutorily mandated body, but it performs a comparable function in providing firsthand advice from representatives of institutions that have an important relationship with the Federal Reserve. The members are representatives from savings and loan institutions, mutual savings banks, and credit unions.

The Federal Reserve Banks also use advisory committees. Of these advisory committees, perhaps the most important are the committees (one for each Reserve Bank) that advise the Banks on matters of agriculture, small business, and labor.



The Federal Reserve sets the nation's monetary policy to promote the objectives of maximum employment, stable prices, and moderate long-term interest rates. The challenge for policymakers is that tensions among the goals can arise in the short run and that information about the economy becomes available only with a lag and may be imperfect.

### Goals of Monetary Policy

The Federal Reserve Act spells out the goals of monetary policy, specifying that the Board of Governors and the Federal Open Market Committee should seek “to promote effectively the goals of maximum employment, stable prices, and moderate long-term interest rates.”

In the long run, stable prices are a precondition for maximum sustainable output growth and employment, as well as moderate long-term interest rates. When prices are stable (and believed likely to remain so) the prices of goods, services, materials, and labor are undistorted by inflation and serve as guides to the efficient allocation of resources. Additionally, stable prices support saving and capital formation, because when the risk of deterioration of asset

values resulting from inflation are minimized, households are encouraged to save more and businesses to invest more.

Although price stability can help achieve maximum sustainable output growth and employment in the longer run, some tension can occur between the two goals in the short run. Often, a slowing of employment is accompanied by reduced pressures on prices, and moving to remedy the weakening of the labor market by easing policy does not have adverse inflationary effects. However, sometimes upward pressures on prices develop as output and employment soften – especially when an adverse supply shock (e.g., a spike in energy prices) has occurred. Then, an attempt to restrain inflation pressures would compound the weakness in the economy, or an attempt to reverse employment losses would aggravate inflation.

*The Federal Reserve Act spells out the goals of monetary policy, specifying that the Board of Governors and the Federal Open Market Committee should seek “to promote effectively the goals of maximum employment, stable prices, and moderate long-term interest rates.”*

In such circumstances, those responsible for monetary policy must choose whether to focus on defusing price pressures or on cushioning the loss of employment and output. Adding to the dilemma is the possibility that an expectation of increasing inflation might get built into decisions regarding prices and wages – adding to inflation inertia and making price stability more difficult.

Beyond influencing the level of prices and the level of output in the near term, the Federal Reserve can contribute to financial stability and improved economic performance by acting to contain financial disruptions and preventing their spread outside the financial sector. Modern financial systems are interdependent and may be vulnerable to wide-scale systemic disruptions, such as those that can occur during a plunge in stock prices. Through its regulatory policies toward banking institutions and payment systems, the Federal Reserve can enhance the financial system's resilience to such shocks. If a threatening disturbance does develop, the Federal Reserve can cushion the impact on financial markets and the economy by aggressively and visibly providing liquidity through open-market operations or discount-window lending.

## How Monetary Policy Affects the Economy

The initial link between monetary policy and the economy is the market for balances held at the Federal Reserve Banks. Depository institutions have accounts at their Reserve Banks, and they actively trade account balances at an interest rate known as “the federal funds rate.” The



Federal Reserve exercises considerable control over the federal funds rate through its influence over the supply of and demand for balances at the Reserve Banks. The FOMC sets the federal funds rate at a level it believes will support financial and monetary conditions consistent with achieving its monetary-policy objectives. Adjustments are made in regards to evolving economic developments. A change in the federal funds rate (or simply a change in expectations about it) can set off a chain of events that will affect other short-term interest rates, longer-term interest



*The Federal Reserve can contribute to financial stability and improved economic performance by acting to contain financial disruptions and preventing their spread outside the financial sector.*

rates, the foreign exchange value of the dollar, and stock prices. In turn, changes in these variables will impact spending decisions for households and businesses.

Short-term interest rates (such as those on U.S. Treasury bills) are affected by the current federal funds rate and expectations about the overnight federal funds rate during the short-term contract. As a result, short-term interest rates could decline if the Federal Reserve surprised market participants with a reduction in the federal funds rate – or if unfolding events convinced participants that the Federal Reserve was going to be holding the federal funds rate lower than had been anticipated. Similarly, short-term interest rates would increase if the Federal Reserve surprised market participants by announcing an increase in the federal funds rate, or if some event prompted market participants to believe that the Federal Reserve was going to hold the federal funds rate at higher levels than had been anticipated.

These reasons comprise why market participants pay close attention to data releases and statements by Federal Reserve officials, watching for clues that the economy and prices are on a different trajectory than had been thought – which would have implications for the stance of monetary policy.

Changes in short-term interest rates (such as those on Treasury notes, corporate bonds, fixed-rate mortgages, and consumer loans) will impact long-term interest rates. Long-term rates are affected by changes in current short-term rates and expectations about short-term rates during the life of the long-term contract. Generally, economic news will have a greater impact on short-term interest rates than on longer rates, because they typically affect the course of the economy and monetary policy over a shorter period.

However, the impact on long rates can also be considerable because the news has clear implications for the expected course of short-term rates during a long period.

Changes in long-term interest rates also impact stock prices, which can have a distinct effect on household wealth. Investors try to keep their investment returns on stocks in line with the return on bonds, after allowing for the greater riskiness of stocks. For example, if long-term interest rates decline, all else being equal, returns on stocks will exceed returns on bonds and encourage investors to purchase stocks and bid up stock prices to the point at which expected risk-adjusted returns on stocks are once again aligned with returns on bonds.

Furthermore, changes in monetary policy affect the exchange value of the dollar on currency markets. For example, if interest rates rise in the United States, yields on dollar assets will look more favorable – this will lead to the dollar being “bid up” on foreign exchange markets. The higher dollar will lower the cost of imports to U.S. residents and raise the price of U.S. exports to those living outside the United States. Conversely, lower interest rates in the United States will lead to a decline in the exchange value of the dollar, inspiring an increase in the price of imports and a decline in the price of exports.

Whether they are the result of an actual or expected change in monetary policy, changes in the value of financial assets will also affect decisions. For example, a drop in interest rates, a lower exchange value of the dollar, and higher stock prices will stimulate various types of spending. Stock prices can also add to household wealth and increase spending options. The reduction in the value of the dollar associated with a drop in interest rates will boost U.S. exports by

lowering the cost of U.S. goods and services in foreign markets. It will also make imported goods more expensive, which will attract purchasers to domestically produced goods. All of these responses will strengthen growth in aggregate demand.

If the economy slows and employment softens, policymakers will be inclined to ease monetary policy to stimulate aggregate demand. When growth in aggregate demand is boosted above growth in the economy's potential to produce, slack in the economy will be absorbed and employment will return to a more sustainable path. Conversely, if the economy is showing signs of overheating and inflation pressures are building, the Federal Reserve will be inclined to counter these pressures by tightening monetary policy to put the economy on a healthier path.

While these policy choices may seem straightforward, policymakers routinely face notable unknowns. First, the

actual position of the economy and growth in aggregate demand at any point are only partially known, as key information on spending, production, and prices become available but with a lag. Therefore, policymakers must rely on estimates of these variables when assessing the appropriate course of policy. Second, the way an adjustment in the federal funds rate will affect growth in aggregate demand is never certain – in terms of the overall magnitude and the timing of its impact. Third, the growth in aggregate supply (a.k.a. the growth in potential output) cannot be accurately measured.

Of key importance here is the growth of the labor force and associated labor input, as well as growth in labor productivity. Typically, growth in labor input can be measured with more accuracy than underlying productivity. For some time, growth in labor input has tended to be around the growth in the overall population of one percentage point per year. However, underlying productivity growth has varied considerably over recent decades, from approximately one percent per year to



approximately three percent (or even higher) – getting a major boost during the middle and late 1990s from applications of information technology and advanced management systems. If, for example, productivity growth is two percent per year, then growth in aggregate supply would be the sum of this amount and labor input growth of one percent – i.e., three percent per year. In which case, growth in aggregate demand in excess of three percent per year would result in a pickup in growth in employment in excess of that of the labor force and a reduction in unemployment. In contrast, growth in aggregate demand below three percent would result in a softening of the labor market and, eventually, a reduction in inflationary pressures.

## Limitations of Monetary Policy

Monetary policy is not the only force affecting output, employment and prices. Many other factors impact aggregate demand and aggregate supply and, consequently, the economic position of households and businesses. Some of these factors can be anticipated and addressed with spending and other economic decisions – and some come as surprises. On the demand side, the government influences the economy via changes in taxes and spending programs, which are usually anticipated because they receive a lot of public attention. Also, forward-looking financial markets may build fiscal events into the level and structure of interest rates, so that a stimulating measure (e.g., a tax cut) would tend to

raise the level of interest rates even before the tax cut becomes effective; this will have a restraining effect on demand and the economy before the fiscal stimulus is actually applied. Other changes in aggregate demand and supply can be unpredictable and can influence the economy in unexpected ways. Examples of such surprises on the demand side are shifts in consumer and business confidence, as well as changes in the lending posture of commercial banks and other creditors. Business and household spending tend to be curbed by this lessened confidence in the economic outlook and labor market or more restrictive lending conditions.

On the supply side, natural disasters, disruptions in the oil market that reduce supply, agricultural losses, and slowdowns in productivity growth are examples of adverse supply shocks. Such shocks tend to raise prices and reduce output. Monetary policy can attempt to counter the loss of output or the higher prices, but it cannot fully offset both.

In practice, monetary policymakers do not have up-to-the-minute information on the state of the economy and prices. Pertinent information is limited by lags in the availability of key data and







revisions that can alter the picture considerably. Therefore, although policymakers will eventually be able to offset the effects of demand shocks on the economy, it will take time for the shock to be fully recognized – and an even longer time before it is countered. Add to this the uncertainty about how the economy will respond to a loosening or tightening of policy, and it is easy to see how the economy and prices can be set on an undesirable path.

The goals of maximum employment and stable prices are more easily achieved if the public understands those goals and has faith that the Federal Reserve will take measures to achieve them. For example, if the Federal Reserve responds to a negative demand shock to the economy with an aggressive and transparent easing of policy, businesses and consumers may believe that these actions will restore the economy to full employment. Consequently, they may be less inclined to pull back on spending out of concern that demand may not be strong enough to warrant a new

business investment or that their job prospects may not warrant the purchase of big-ticket household items.

## Guides to Monetary Policy

Although the goals of monetary policy are clearly spelled out in the law, the means to achieve those goals are not. Changes in the FOMC's target federal funds rate take time to affect the economy and prices, and whether a selected level of the federal funds rate will achieve those goals is often far from being obvious. For this reason, some have suggested that the Federal Reserve pay close attention to guides that are intermediate between its operational target – the federal funds rate – and the economy. Among those frequently mentioned are monetary aggregates, the level and structure of interest rates, the Taylor rule, and foreign exchange rates. Some suggest that one of these guides be selected as an intermediate target – that is, a specific formal objective be set for the intermediate target and aggressively pursued with the policy instruments. Others suggest that these guides be used more as indicators, to be monitored regularly.

## Monetary Aggregates

At times, monetary aggregates have been hailed as guides to monetary policy due to their fairly stable relationship with the economy. Plus, they can be reasonably controlled by the central bank – either through control over the supply of balances at the Federal Reserve or the federal funds rate. For example, an increase in the federal funds rate (and other short-term interest rates) will reduce the appeal of holding money balances relative to now higher-yielding money market instruments, and therefore reduce the amount of money demanded while slowing growth of the money stock. There are a few measures of the money stock, and these aggregates have different behaviors.



Ordinarily, the rate of money growth sought over time would be equal to the rate of nominal Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth implied by the objective for inflation and the objective for growth in real GDP. For example, if the objective for inflation is one percent in a given year and the rate of growth in real GDP associated with achieving maximum employment is three percent, then the guideline for growth in the money stock would be four percent. However, the relation between the growth in money and the growth in nominal GDP – known as “velocity” – can vary, often unpredictably, and this uncertainty can add to difficulties in using monetary aggregates as a guide to policy. Indeed, in the United States, considerable slippage and greater complexity in the relationship between money and GDP have made it more difficult to harness monetary aggregates as guides to policy. In addition, the narrow and broader aggregates often give differing signals concerning the need to adjust policy. Accordingly, over time monetary aggregates have taken on less importance in policymaking.

## Interest Rates

Frequently, interest rates have been proposed as a guide to policy, due the role they play in a spending decisions and because information about them is available in real time. Driving the argument against giving interest rates the primary role in guiding monetary policy is the uncertainty about exactly what level or path of interest rates is consistent with the basic goals of monetary policy. The appropriate level of interest rates will fluctuate with the stance of fiscal policy, changes in the pattern of household and business spending, productivity growth, and economic developments abroad. Gauging the strength of these forces can be difficult, and so can translating them into a path for interest rates.

The slope of the yield curve (i.e., the difference between the interest rate on longer-term and shorter-term instruments) has also been suggested as a guide to monetary policy. While short-term interest rates are



strongly influenced by the current setting of the policy instrument, longer-term interest rates are impacted by expectations of future short-term interest rates and therefore by the longer-term effects of monetary policy on inflation and output. For example, a yield curve with a steeply positive slope (i.e., longer-term interest rates far above short-term rates) may be a signal that participants in the bond market believe that monetary policy has become too expansive and therefore, without a monetary policy correction, more inflationary. In contrast, a yield curve with a downward slope (i.e., short-term rates above longer rates) may indicate that policy is too restrictive, possibly risking an unwanted loss of output and employment. The yield curve is also influenced by other factors, including prospective fiscal policy, developments in foreign exchange markets, and expectations about the future path of monetary policy. Thus, signals from the yield curve must be interpreted carefully.

## The Taylor Rule

Named after prominent economist John Taylor, the Taylor rule is a monetary-policy guide stipulating the extent to which the central bank would (or should) change the nominal interest rate in response to divergences of actual versus target inflation rates – and actual GDP versus potential GDP. The rule acts as a guide for assessing the proper stance of monetary policy. It relates the setting of the federal funds rate to the primary objectives of monetary policy. Although the rule has uses, it also has shortcomings. The level of short-term interest rates associated with achieving longer-term goals can fluctuate over time in unpredictable ways. Also, the current rate of inflation and position of the economy in relation to full employment are not known because of data lags and difficulties in estimating the full-employment level of output.



## Foreign Exchange Rates

The foreign exchange rate between two currencies specifies how much one currency is worth in terms of the other. Exchange rate movements are an important channel through which monetary policy affects the economy, and exchange rates tend to respond promptly to a change in the federal funds rate. Moreover, information on exchange rates is available continuously throughout the day.

However, interpreting the meaning of movements in exchange rates can be difficult. For example, a decline in the foreign exchange value of the dollar could indicate that monetary policy has become, or is expected to become, more accommodative, resulting in inflation risks. But exchange rates also respond to other influences – notably developments abroad – so a weaker

dollar on foreign exchange markets could instead reflect higher interest rates abroad, which make other currencies more attractive and have fewer implications for the stance of U.S. monetary policy and the performance of the U.S. economy.

Conversely, a strengthening of the dollar on foreign exchange markets could reflect a move to a more restrictive monetary policy in the United States (or expectations of such a move). But it also could reflect expectations of a lower path for interest rates elsewhere or a heightened perception of risk in foreign financial assets relative to U.S. assets.

All of the guides to monetary policy discussed here are related to the transmission of monetary policy to the economy. Each has its advantages; however, none can be relied on solely. Consequently, monetary policymakers tend to use a broad range of indicators – those mentioned here, along with others – to judge economic trends and to assess the stance of monetary policy.

This eclectic approach enables the Federal Reserve Bank (and other central banks) to use all available information when conducting monetary policy. This approach may be

especially important as market structures and economic processes evolve in ways that reduce the usefulness of any single indicator. However, a downside to such an approach is the difficulty it poses in communicating the central bank's intentions to the public. The associated risk can be mitigated if the central bank develops a track record of achieving favorable policy outcomes when no single guide to policy has proven reliable.

As the nation's central bank, the Fed is insulated from partisan political pressure, but it is clearly accountable to Congress, which has defined its monetary policy goals: to promote price stability and maximum sustainable economic growth and employment. The Fed's regional structure ensures that the views of a broad spectrum of people from across the nation are brought to bear on these important policy decisions.

In recent years, the Fed has also responded to the challenges presented by the many changes in the financial services industry, which led the Federal Reserve to undergo a considerable number of adjustments as well. The modern-day Fed reflects not only the lessons of history but also the demands of a rapidly changing economic and financial system. Thus, central banking in the United States has evolved and adapted over the last two centuries and has

moved into the 21st century with a sense both of history and of the challenges that lie ahead.





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**U.S. General Services Administration**

# Strategic Sourcing for Office Supplies

## Second Generation

The Federal Strategic Sourcing Initiative (FSSI) was launched in November 2005 as a result of a joint partnership between the General Services Administration (GSA) and the US Department of Treasury. The partnership was formed in response to a request from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPPP) requiring all agencies to identify commodities to be purchased more efficiently through strategic sourcing. Today, more than 14 federal agencies, both military and civilian, are active participants in the FSSI Office Supplies Commodity Initiative.





## Coming Soon

Starting in December and January, customers using the GSA SmartPay Card through any method of purchase (GSA Advantage!®, DoD eMall, retail locations, or direct to vendor) with any of the awarded vendors AUTOMATICALLY get the BPA price!







Recently, OMB mandated that all federal agencies cut their procurement expenditures by 3.5 percent for both Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011, for a total reduction of seven percent. Federal agencies submitted Acquisition Savings Plans in response to this mandate and projected significant savings from the use of agencywide and governmentwide strategic sourcing initiatives. GSA is continuing its strategic sourcing efforts on a governmentwide basis by establishing the Second Generation Federal Strategic Sourcing Initiative Office Supplies BPA's. We anticipate agencies will achieve significant savings by using these BPA's.

### **A New and Improved Way to Buy with the Second Generation**

GSA has obtained discounted pricing on office supplies, paper, and toners so agencies can get what they need at the prices they need with minimal effort. By leveraging the buying power of the federal marketplace, GSA has negotiated great terms and conditions. Customers can also order direct from the 15 contractors with a GSA SmartPay card and obtain the same great BPA prices available from *GSAAdvantage!*<sup>®</sup> or DoD eMall starting in December and January. In addition, companies of various business sizes are available to help achieve socioeconomic goals.

By accessing *GSAAdvantage!*<sup>®</sup> or DoD eMall, customers can find and compare a wide array of products at discounted prices. Discounts average 19 percent off MAS pricing but can reach as high as 45 percent off on certain items. Customers can also order direct from the 12 contractors with a GSA SmartPay card and obtain the same great BPA prices available from *GSAAdvantage!*<sup>®</sup> or DoD eMall.



Go to [www.GSAAdvantage.gov](http://www.GSAAdvantage.gov) and click on the Strategic Sourcing BPAs link on the left hand side of the page to access a wide array of office supplies.

#### **Interested in obtaining green office supplies?**

Agencies can see all available items under various environmental attributes within this aisle.

#### **Interested in obtaining office supplies from small businesses of various classifications?**

GSA makes it easy for agencies to shop this way as well.

Simply select the products and quantities you want, add them to your cart and proceed to checkout. Customers can order from one company to get all supplies in one shipment or order from a variety of companies and get multiple shipments - it's totally up to you. For more detailed ordering information, please visit [www.gsa.gov/fssiofficesupplies](http://www.gsa.gov/fssiofficesupplies).

The Second Generation Office Supply BPA's are EASY to USE, provide additional discounts to the negotiated prices already available on GSA's Schedule 75 for office supplies, and provide the federal government with a fast and effective way to order while ensuring prompt, cost effective delivery and quality customer service. Under the BPAs, discounts increase as the collective purchases grow across the federal government. Through this pricing structure, the vehicle truly leverages the government's buying power.



**Additional benefits include:**

- Capturing economies of scale;
- Ensuring compliance with applicable regulations to include the AbilityOne program, sustainable purchasing requirements, and the Trade Agreement Act;
- Fostering markets for sustainable technologies and environmentally preferable products by offering the most up-to-date items with various environmental attributes;
- Simplifying data collection and enhancing transparency by enabling agencies to better manage spend and measure cost savings;
- Enabling achievement of socioeconomic goals with companies of various business sizes and classifications such as small, small woman-owned, small disadvantaged, service disabled veteran-owned small business, small disadvantaged woman-owned and large businesses;
- Providing ease of ordering with multiple options: *GSA Advantage!*®, DoD eMall, or direct from the contractor

The FSSI Office Supply BPAs were established with 15 companies as follows:

| Pool | Vendor                                 | BPA Number   | Socio-economic Status | Web site                         |
|------|--|--------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1    | Capitol Supply Inc.                    | GS-02F-XA001 | S                     | www.capitolsupply.com            |
|      | Document Imaging Dimensions            | GS-02F-XA002 | S/W                   | www.fssibpa.com                  |
|      | Independent Stationers Inc.            | GS-02F-XA003 | S                     | www.independentstationers.co     |
|      | Metro Office Products LLC              | GS-02F-XA004 | S/D                   | www.mymetroofficeproducts.com    |
|      | Shelby Distribution Inc.               | GS-02F-XA005 | SDVOSB                | www.expressop.com                |
|      | SITA Business Systems Inc              | GS-02F-XA006 | S/D/W                 | www.sitabs.com                   |
|      | WECSYS LLC                             | GS-02F-XA007 | S/D                   | www.wecsysllc.com                |
|      | New York Inkjet LLC                    | GS-02F-XA012 | S/W                   | www.newyorkinkjet.com/government |
|      | Stephens Office Supplies               | GS-02F-XA014 | S/W                   | www.theofficestore.com           |
| 2    | EZ Print Supplies Inc.                 | GS-02F-XA008 | S/W                   | www.redcheetah.com/ezprint.com   |
|      | Office Depot                           | GS-02F-XA009 | L                     | https://business.officedepot.com |
|      | Staples Inc.                           | GS-02F-XA013 | L                     | www.staples4government.com       |
| 3    | ASE Direct Inc.                        | GS-02F-XA010 | SDVOSB                | www.govtoner.com                 |
|      | Cartridge Savers Inc.                  | GS-02F-XA011 | S/D                   | gov.cartridgesavers.com          |
|      | Imaging Systems LLC dba Access Systems | GS-02F-XA015 | SDVOSB                | www.accessproductsinc.com        |

**Key for the Socioeconomic Labels:**

S: Small Business

S/W: Small Woman-Owned Business

S/D: Small Disadvantaged business

SDVOSB: Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business

S/D/W: Small Disadvantaged Woman-Owned Business

For more information, please visit [www.gsa.gov/fssiofficesupplies](http://www.gsa.gov/fssiofficesupplies), or contact

Hassan Harris

(212) 264-4784

[hassan.harris@gsa.gov](mailto:hassan.harris@gsa.gov)

# One Stop Shopping

The U.S. Treasury was formed on September 2, 1789 by the U.S. Congress to manage government revenue. The first Secretary of the Treasury was Alexander Hamilton who literally formed the United States' financial system as we know it today. As a department which promotes the economic prosperity and financial security of the United States, Treasury operates 13 bureaus with a vast array of activities that are critical to the core functions of government, including collecting revenue and disbursing payments, managing Federal finances, and protecting the financial system from threats. The U.S. Treasury also plays a key role in modernizing the American financial regulatory system and ensuring effective, transparent administration of programs designed to revive and strengthen the U.S. economy.





GSA offers the U.S. Treasury  
Comprehensive IT Solutions



In FY 2010, the U.S. Department of Treasury obligated \$422.553 million for the use of GSA's Multiple Award Schedules (MAS) Program. Approximately \$239.762 million or 56.74% of all obligated dollars are for IT solutions available through the MAS Program. Many bureaus within Treasury use this contract vehicle to meet their IT Support requirements, from Bureau of Public Debt to the Internal Revenue Service.

The U.S. Treasury uses the GSA Multiple Award Schedules Program (MAS) to fulfill their IT requirements and to assure the OMB-mandated directives for Cyber security, Sustainability, Cloud Computing, Identification Management Solutions, Credentialing Services, Satellite Services, Data Centers & Storage, and many other IT-related services. Treasury has procured computers, computer-system design services, software, computer-related services, data processing, hosting services, wireless communications carriers, among other commodities and services offered through GSA's MAS 70.

### Using GSA's MAS Program

As the government's "go to" source for information technology (IT) products and solutions, GSA Multiple Award Schedule (MAS) 70 offers comprehensive solutions for state-of-the-art IT products and services, in conjunction with refreshed products, contractor selection, and Special Item Numbers (SINs).

Whenever you use GSA MAS 70, you choose how you place the order to:

- Procure through direct channels by placing a task order;
- Order from a single contractor by using a Request for Quotation (RFQ);

- Select hands-on support from GSA to help guide you through ordering activities, or to assist you throughout the life cycle of an acquisition;
- Create solutions via contractors offering products and services across more than one MAS or SIN;
- Enter into Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA), which is excellent for recurring needs;
- Combine multiple vendors into a Contractor Team Arrangement (CTA), which is surprisingly easy to do, given GSA MAS 70's size and breadth of offerings, or
- Get quotes easily and quickly using GSA's suite of eTools.

Keep in mind that GSA MAS 70 is scalable, which means its scope runs the full gamut, from micro-purchases to enterprise-wide solutions-based requirements.

Government customers can award contracts to 8(a) Disadvantaged, Veteran-Owned, Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned, Women-owned companies under IT Schedule 70 to help them meet their small business procurement goals as mandated by the President and U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Government customers can define the requirements in the evaluation criteria indicating that small business interests will receive a more-favorable evaluation than those from large business. However, no requirements can be set aside for small business. To obtain information on the importance of small business acquisition and learn more about how to protect America, create jobs and meet your mandated goals, kindly visit [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).

GSA MAS IT Schedule 70 enables the acquisition of technology equipment, software, and professional IT services. Awards are made using offers from contractors resulting in indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity (IDIQ)



GSA MAS IT Schedule 70 currently has more than 5,000 prime contractors, including:

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Northrop Grumman Corporation  
Oracle USA, Inc  
Science Applications  
International Corporation  
Verizon

among other large and small business, disadvantaged industry companies and leaders.

contracts and the best value to your agency. These contract vehicles establish fair and reasonable pricing, delivery terms and other contractual requirements based on a broad range of general categories for commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) products and services. GSA MAS 70 is designed to assist you with your mission by providing a simplified acquisition vehicle to help maximize the value of your IT purchases.

GSA MAS 70 is the federal government's first-stop for IT products and services for many reasons. Below is a list of some of the most important benefits our contract offers to you the customer:

- Ease of Ordering
- Reduced Administrative Costs
- Flexible Delivery Terms
- Streamlined Process
- Combined synopsis and Solicitation

- Blanket Purchase Agreements
- Contractor Teaming Arrangements
- Spot Discounting/Volume Discounts
- Price Reductions
- Purchase Card Acceptance
- New Technology
- Evergreen Contracts
- Section 508 Information for IT
- Environmental Programs

To find out more about how your agency can benefit from GSA's IT Solutions, please contact us at


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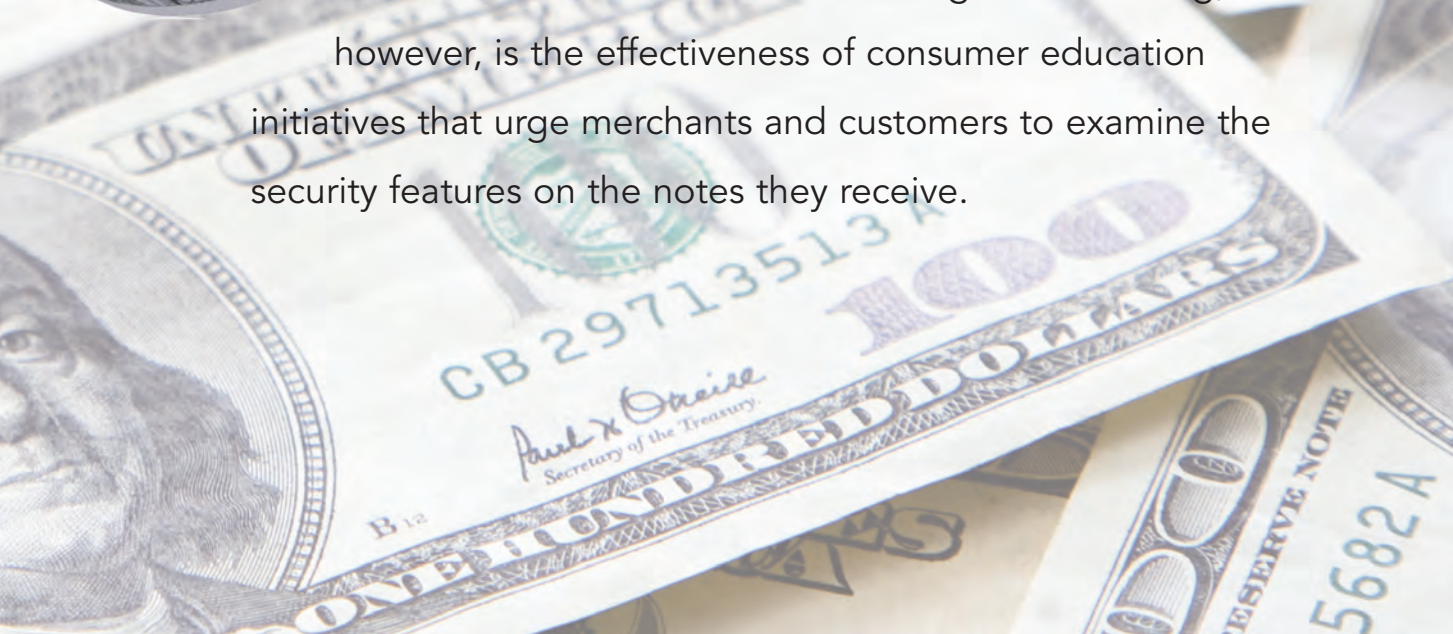


# All About the Benjamins

## Treasury Gives the \$100 Bill a Facelift



For 145 years, the men and women of the United States Secret Service have worked diligently to protect the integrity of U.S. currency from counterfeiters. During that time, the agency has evolved to keep pace with the advanced methodologies employed by criminals. What has remained constant in combating counterfeiting, however, is the effectiveness of consumer education initiatives that urge merchants and customers to examine the security features on the notes they receive.







Officials from the U.S. Department of the Treasury, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the United States Secret Service unveiled the new design for the \$100 note in April 2010. Complete with advanced technology to combat counterfeiting, the new design for the \$100 note retains the traditional look of U.S. currency, and will be issued on February 10, 2011.

To ensure a seamless introduction of the new \$100 note into the financial system, a global public education program is being conducted to ensure that users of U.S. currency are aware of the new security features.

When the new design \$100 note is issued on February 10, 2011, the approximately 6.5 billion older design \$100s already in circulation will remain legal tender, said

Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board Ben S. Bernanke. "U.S. currency users should know they will not have to trade in their older design \$100 notes when the new ones begin circulating."

The new security features come after more than a decade of research and development to protect our currency from counterfeiting. There are a number of security features in the redesigned \$100 note, including two new features, the 3-D Security Ribbon and the Bell in the Inkwell. These security features are easy for consumers and merchants to use to authenticate their currency.

The blue **3-D Security Ribbon** on the front of the new \$100 note contains images of bells and 100s that move and change from one to the other as you tilt the note. The **Bell**



**"As with previous U.S. currency redesigns, this note incorporates the best technology available to ensure we're staying ahead of counterfeiters. "**

**— Tim Geithner, Secretary of the Treasury**

.....

**"The advanced security features we've included in the new \$100 note will hinder potential counterfeiters from producing high-quality fakes that can deceive consumers and merchants," said Larry R. Felix, Director of the Treasury's Bureau of Engraving and Printing. "Protect yourself - it only takes a few seconds to check the new \$100 note and know it's real."**



**in the Inkwell** on the front of the note is another new security feature. The bell changes color from copper to green when the note is tilted, an effect that makes it seem to appear and disappear within the copper inkwell.

Although less than 1/100th of one percent of the value of all U.S. currency in circulation is reported counterfeit, the \$100 note is the most widely circulated and most often counterfeited denomination outside the U.S.

"The \$100 is the highest value denomination that we issue, and it circulates broadly around the world," said Michael Lambert, Assistant Director for Cash at the Federal Reserve Board. "Therefore, we took the necessary time to develop advanced security features that are easy for the public to use in everyday transactions, but difficult for counterfeiters to replicate."

The new design for the \$100 note retains three effective security features from the previous design: the portrait watermark of Benjamin Franklin, the security thread, and the color-shifting numeral 100.

The new \$100 note also displays American symbols of freedom, including phrases from the Declaration of Independence and the quill the Founding Fathers used to sign this historic document. Both are located to the right of the portrait on the front of the note.

The back of the note has a new vignette of Independence Hall featuring the rear, rather than the front, of the building. Both the vignette on the back of the note and the portrait on the front have been enlarged, and the oval that previously appeared around both images has been removed.

For a more detailed description of the redesigned \$100 note and its features, visit [www.newmoney.gov](http://www.newmoney.gov) where you can watch an animated video, click through an interactive note or browse through the multimedia resources for images and B-roll.

Also, visit [www.newmoney.gov](http://www.newmoney.gov) for information on how to order free training materials for cash handlers, or you may download the materials directly from the Web site. The training materials for the \$100 note are available in 25 languages.





## United States Currency Milestones: 1996–Present

### Currency Redesign 1996

In the first significant design change in 67 years, U.S. paper money was redesigned to incorporate a series of new counterfeit deterrent features. The new bills were issued beginning with the \$100 note in 1996, followed by the \$50 note in 1997, the \$20 note in 1998, and the \$10 and \$5 notes in 2000.



### The Redesigned \$20 Note 2003

In 2003, the second round of redesigns began when the United States government introduced the redesigned \$20 note. The \$20 note was issued on October 9, 2003, and has the following primary security features:

- ① **Security Thread:** Hold the note to light and look for the security thread that is embedded in the paper and runs vertically to the left of the portrait. If you look closely, the words *USA TWENTY* and a small flag are visible along the thread from both sides of the note. This thread glows green when illuminated by ultraviolet light.
- ② **Watermark:** Hold the note to light and look for the watermark, or faint image, similar to the large portrait. The watermark is to the right of the portrait, part of the paper itself, and it can be seen from both sides of the note.
- ③ **Color-Shifting Ink:** Look at the numeral 20 in the lower right corner on the front of the note. When you tilt the note up and down, the color-shifting ink changes from copper to green. The color shift is more dramatic in the redesigned notes, making it even easier for people to check their money.

### The New \$100 Note

Know Its Features. Know It's Real.

[www.newmoney.gov](http://www.newmoney.gov)

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## The Redesigned \$50 Note

2004

The redesigned \$50 note was issued on September 28, 2004, and has three key security features:

- ① **Security Thread:** Hold the note to light and look for the security thread that is embedded in the paper and runs vertically to the right of the portrait. If you look closely, the words *USA 50* and a small flag are visible along the thread from both sides of the note. This thread glows yellow when illuminated by ultraviolet light
- ② **Watermark:** Hold the note to light and look for the watermark, or faint image, similar to the large portrait. The watermark is to the right of the portrait, part of the paper itself, and it can be seen from both sides of the note.
- ③ **Color-Shifting Ink:** Look at the numeral 50 in the lower right corner on the front of the note. When you tilt the note up and down, the color-shifting ink changes from copper to green. The color shift is more dramatic in the redesigned notes, making it even easier for people to check their money.



## The Redesigned \$10 Note

2006

The redesigned \$10 note was issued on March 2, 2006, and includes three easy-to-use security features:

- ① **Security Thread:** Hold the note to light and look for the security thread that is embedded in the paper and runs vertically to the right of the portrait. If you look closely, the words *USA 10* and a small flag are visible along the thread from both sides of the note. This thread glows orange when illuminated by ultraviolet light
- ② **Watermark:** Hold the note to light and look for the watermark, or faint image, similar to the large portrait. The watermark is part of the paper itself, and it can be seen from both sides of the note. On the redesigned \$10 note, a blank oval has been incorporated into the design to highlight the watermark's location to the right of the portrait
- ③ **Color-Shifting Ink:** Look at the numeral 10 in the lower right corner on the face of the note. When you tilt the note up and down, the color-shifting ink changes from copper to green. The color shift is more dramatic in the redesigned notes, making it even easier for people to check their money.

## The New \$100 Note

Know Its Features. Know It's Real.







## The Redesigned \$5 Note 2008

The redesigned \$5 note was issued on March 13, 2008. Enhanced security features make it easier to check the redesigned \$5 note and more difficult for potential counterfeiters to reproduce:

**Watermarks:** There are now two watermarks on the redesigned \$5 note:

- ❶ Hold the note to light and look for a large numeral 5 watermark located to the right of the portrait replacing the previous watermark portrait of President Lincoln found on the older design \$5 notes.
- ❷ A second watermark—a column of three smaller 5s—has been added to the redesigned \$5 note design and is positioned to the left of the portrait.
- ❸ **Security Thread:** Hold the note to light and look for the embedded security thread that runs vertically and is now located to the right of the portrait on the redesigned \$5 note. The letters *USA* followed by the numeral 5 in an alternating pattern are visible along the thread from both sides of the note. The thread glows blue when illuminated by ultraviolet light.

page 3 of 3

## The New \$100 Note

Know Its Features. Know It's Real.

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## The New \$100 Note: What You Need to Know

**Protecting and maintaining confidence in U.S. currency requires a combination of effective public education, law enforcement and security features. Continuously evaluating counterfeited threats across all denominations and introducing new designs helps the government stay ahead of currency counterfeiting.**

**A new \$100 note will begin circulating on February 10, 2011. Here is what you need to know:**

**Our Goal Is a Seamless Introduction.** The U.S. government is conducting a global public education program to inform those who use the \$100 note about the changes.

**It Is Not Necessary to Trade in Old-Design \$100 Notes for New Ones.** All U.S. currency remains legal tender, regardless of when it was issued.

**Know Its Features. Know It's Real.** The fight against counterfeiting depends on the public knowing how to use the security features in U.S. currency.

- Although less than 1/100<sup>th</sup> of one percent of the value of all U.S. currency in circulation is reported counterfeit, the \$100 note is the most widely circulated and most often counterfeited denomination outside the U.S.
- Protect yourself by using the new and enhanced security features in the redesigned \$100 note that thwart potential counterfeiters from producing high-quality fakes.

**We incorporated two advanced and easy-to-use security features which offer a simple and subtle way to verify that a note is real:**

- **3-D Security Ribbon:** A blue ribbon on the front of the \$100 note with images of bells and 100s.
  - Tilt the note back and forth while focusing on the blue ribbon. You will see the bells change to 100s as they move.
  - When you tilt the note back and forth, the bells and 100s move side to side. If you tilt it side to side, they move up and down.
  - The ribbon is woven into the paper, not printed on it.
- **Bell in the Inkwell:** A color-shifting bell, inside a copper inkwell, on the front of the note.
  - The inkwell and bell are both copper until you move the \$100 note. Tilt it to see the bell change from copper to green, an effect which makes the bell seem to appear and disappear within the inkwell.







**We retained three highly effective security features from the old design in the new \$100 note:**

- **Portrait Watermark:** Hold the note to light and look for a faint image of Benjamin Franklin around the blank space to the right of the portrait. The image is visible from either side of the note.
- **Security Thread:** Hold the note to light to see an embedded thread that runs vertically to the left of the portrait. The letters *USA* and the numeral *100* appear in an alternating pattern and are visible along the thread from both sides of the note. The thread glows pink when illuminated by ultraviolet light.
- **Color-Shifting 100:** Tilt the note to see the numeral *100* in the lower right corner of the front of the note shift from copper to green.

## The New \$100 Note

Know Its Features. Know It's Real.







## The Latest in U.S. Currency Design

The redesigned \$100 note introduces two advanced security features: the **3-D Security Ribbon** and the **Bell in the Inkwell**. It is not necessary to trade in your old-design notes for new ones. All U.S. currency remains legal tender, regardless of when it was issued. Protect yourself — it only takes a few seconds to check the new \$100 note and know it's real.



1. Security Thread 2. Portrait Watermark 3. Color-Shifting 50



1. Security Thread 2. Portrait Watermark 3. Color-Shifting 20



1. Security Thread 2. Portrait Watermark 3. Color-Shifting 10



1. Watermark: Column of three smaller numeral 5s 2. Security Thread 3. Watermark: Large numeral 5



1. Portrait Watermark 2. Security Thread 3. Color-Shifting 100

### 3-D Security Ribbon

Tilt the note back and forth while focusing on the blue ribbon. You will see the bells change to 100s as they move. The ribbon is woven into the paper, not printed on it.

### Bell in the Inkwell

Tilt the note to see the color-shifting bell in the copper inkwell change from copper to green.





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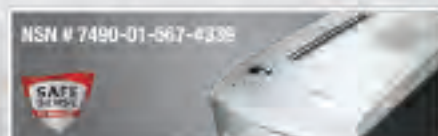


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# A Secure Legacy

## A Brief History of Paper Shredders

By Peter Daniel Davis

Abiel Abbot Low had made his fortune trading tea and silks in China and Japan, bringing goods back to America on fast clipper ships. One son, Seth Low, served as president of Columbia University and then as mayor of New York City.







Another son, Abbot Augustus Low, (1884-1912) served as an apprentice at his father's import business and later became a partner. But he was deeply drawn to the Adirondacks, and began buying up land in upstate New York. An entrepreneur and inventor, he was awarded more than 200 patents during his lifetime. No one at the time had received more, with the exception of Thomas Edison. His ventures included building a railroad station, logging, tapping and transporting maple sap for maple sugar, dam building for hydroelectric power and lumber transport, and bottled water shipped in square, returnable bottles.

Curiously, Low did not even give the name "paper shredder" to the gadget he had patented to shred paper. Low referred to his creation as "new and useful Improvements in Waste-Paper Receptacles." Perhaps it reflected a talent for saving space, something that would have been useful in packing trade ships.

His device could be operated by either a hand crank or an electric motor, although he preferred the motor, which would automatically cut off when the paper had finished feeding. The paper, "disintegrated and rendered useless," was also compressed and packed. Low stated that his device could be used in banks and counting houses for use in the destruction of liquidated bonds and accounts that could no longer be used for fraudulent purposes and could only then be sold as waste paper.

Low was someone with a talent for putting ideas into practice, but his paper shredder was never actually built. It was not until 1935, when in 1935 Adolph Ehinger, an anti-Nazi propagandist, needed a quick way to destroy evidence. He hit on the idea of adapting a pasta maker to make incriminating documents disappear on short notice.

In the Supreme Court decision *California v. Greenwood* in 1988, it was ruled that warrantless search and seizure of garbage left outside the enclosed area of land around a home was permissible. Along with anti-burning laws, this helped to increase the popularity of shredders in the private sector. Various information privacy laws and concerns regarding identity theft have also increased sales of paper shredders.

When using a shredder, pages should be inserted with the lines of type perpendicular to the direction of the cutting blades, thus leaving the least amount of decipherable text on a given strip of paper. Shredders are available in various degrees of security. Simply put, the narrower the strips are from a sheet of paper, the greater the security. Shredding a page into particles instead of strips increases the security factor even more. The smaller the particle, the harder it becomes for someone to reassemble the text from a page.

Shredders are now an essential tool in offices. Having a shredder – or several – on an office floor is also a reminder that documents need to be guarded and confidential information needs to be protected. Shredders are designed with a variety of safety features, capacities, and rates for consuming paper.

GSA offers a vast array of products and services through a range of procurement programs. GSA Global Supply™ is a one-stop source for all military and agency support needs, including office supplies and organizational tools. GSA's Multiple Award Schedules Program offers agencies access to a nearly limitless selection of office and equipment through a variety of commercial vendors. Specifically, MAS Schedule 75, Office Products/Supplies and Services and New Products/Technology offers a wide range of paper shredders and other office related tools to fit any need.

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# The Dogs of War

## A History of Honor

Working dogs have been companions in warfare throughout history. From the Ancient Egyptian Civilization, to the dominance of the Roman Empire, through Napoleon's rule, to the American Civil War and beyond, dogs of war have been omnipresent in every part of the world.

# Yesterday

The Romans trained dogs for battle and used them in attack formations. They also spread the use of dogs in war by exporting them as assets to countries all over the known world. Atilla the Hun used giant Molosser dogs in his campaigns. Gifts of war dog breeding stock between European royalty were seen as suitable tokens for exchange throughout the Middle Ages. Other civilizations used armored dogs to defend caravans or attack enemies. The Spanish conquistadors used armored dogs that had been trained to kill when they invaded the land controlled by South American natives. The British used dogs when they attacked the Irish and the Irish in turn used Irish Wolfhounds to attack invading Norman knights on horseback. Two wolfhounds, or even a single one were often capable of taking a mounted man in armor off his horse, where the lightly armed handler would finish him off if necessary.

Later on, Frederick the Great used dogs as messengers during the Seven Years' War with Russia. Napoleon would also use dogs during his campaigns. Dogs were used up until 1770 to guard naval installations in France. Even the Native Americans used dogs, though not on this scale.

The first official use of dogs for military purposes in the United States was during the Seminole Wars. The American Pit Bull Terrier was used in the American Civil War to protect, send messages, and as mascots in American WWI propaganda and recruiting posters.

## In Duty, Honor

Throughout history, a variety of breeds have performed different roles and responsibilities, some of which are still used today. Different breeds were used for different things, but always met the demands of the handlers. Many roles



*English: U.S. Marine 'Raiders' and their dogs, which are used for scouting and running messages, starting off for the jungle front lines on Bougainville in 1943.*

for dogs in war are obsolete and no longer practiced. War dogs have endured harsh treatment throughout history, but today, these dogs are revered for their strength, courage, and loyalty as they continue to serve for our benefit.

## Anti-tank Dogs

During World War II, the Soviet Union trained anti-tank dogs to destroy tanks. The dogs were sent on suicide missions, wearing a pouched canvas overcoat in which high explosives were placed. When they ducked under a tank in search of food, the explosives were actuated by means of a tilt fuse on the dog's back, which when bent or broken set off the explosives in the dog's overcoat, with the hope of destroying the tank. Obviously, a by-product of this practice was the death of the unsuspecting wardog.

These dogs were apparently successful at damaging many German tanks, reportedly disabling eleven armored fighting vehicles in a single battle. They were considered dangerous enough by the Germans that Panzergrenadiers were ordered to shoot all dogs on sight. However, the dogs were unable to distinguish allied from enemy tanks, and were also easily scared away from battle, and from moving tanks, despite their hunger. The project was eventually abandoned.



## Historical Examples

The use of dogs in warfare has been common even in many early civilizations. As warfare has progressed, their purposes have changed greatly.

**628 BC:** The Lydians deployed a separate battalion of fighting dogs.

**525 BC:** Cambyses II used huge fighting dogs against Egyptian spearmen and archers.

**490 BC:** Battle of Marathon: A brave fighting dog was immortalized in a mural.

**385 BC:** Siege of Mantinea: Fighting dogs cut off enemy reinforcements.

**101 BC:** Battle of Vercellae: Large Cimbri dogs led by women defended their laagers.

**1525:** Henry VIII exported 400 mastiffs to support Spain.

**1580:** Elizabeth I sent 800 fighting dogs to fight in the Desmond Rebellions.

**1799:** Napoleon assembled large numbers of fighting dogs in front of his reserves.

**1914:** The Belgian Army used carabiniers, strong-muscled Bouvier des Flandres to haul heavy machine guns to the front.

**1914–1918:** Dogs were used by international forces to deliver vital messages.

**1941–1945:** The Soviet Union used dogs strapped with explosives to destroy invading German tanks.

**1943–1945:** The United States Marine Corps used dogs, donated by their American owners, in the Pacific theater to help take islands back from Japanese occupying forces. During this period the Doberman Pinscher became the official dog of the U.S.M.C.; however, all breeds of dogs were eligible to train to be "war dogs of the Pacific". These dogs were to be returned to their original owners after WWII ended, however, if the dogs could not be "de-militarized" or re-trained to be companion animals again, they were killed.

**1966–1973:** Approximately 5,000 U.S. war dogs served in the Vietnam War (the U.S. Army did not retain records prior to 1968); about 10,000 U.S. servicemen served as dog-handlers during the war, and the K9 units are estimated to have saved over 10,000 human lives. Forty-three military working dogs and 73 U.S. servicemen working as dog handlers were killed in action during the war. US military regulations required destruction or transfer of military working dogs in combat zones and only 200 Vietnam War dogs returned home (U.S.).[5]

**1979–1988:** The Soviet Union again used dogs, this time in the Soviet war in Afghanistan.

## Logistics & Communication

About the time World War I broke out, many Europeans used dogs to pull small carts, and European armies adapted the process for military use. The Belgian Army used dogs to pull their Maxim Guns and other supplies or wounded in their carts. The French had 250 dogs at the start of World War I. The Dutch army copied the idea and had hundreds of dogs trained and ready by the end of World War I. The Soviet army also used dogs to drag wounded men to aid stations during WWII. The dogs were well-suited to transporting loads over snow and through craters.

Dogs were often used to carry messages in battle. They would be turned loose to move silently to a second handler. This required a dog which was very loyal to two masters, otherwise the dog would not deliver the message on time, or at all. Some messenger dogs also performed other communication jobs, such as pulling telephone lines from one location to another.

## Mascots

Dogs also served as unit mascots for military units. The dog in question might be an officer's dog, an animal that the unit chose to adopt, or one of their canines employed in another role as a working dog. Some units also chose to employ a particular breed of dog as their standard mascot, with new dogs replacing the old when it died or was retired. The presence of a mascot was designed to uplift morale, and many were used for this purpose in the trenches of World War I.

## Medical Research

Medical researchers and their allies in the armed forces awarded military-style medals to animals in laboratories to emphasize the martial significance of animal experimentation. In World War II, dogs took on a new role in medical experimentation, as the primary animals chosen for medical research. The animal experimentation allowed doctors to test new medicine without risking human lives, though these practices came under more scrutiny after the war. The United States' government responded by proclaiming these dogs as heroes. The Cold War sparked a



*SP4 Bealock and scout dog "Chief" on patrol in Vietnam*





RG123S, Vietnam Photos Miscellaneous Collection

heated debate over the ethics of animal experimentation in the U.S., particularly aimed at how canines were treated in World War II. In 1966, major reforms came to this field with the adoption of the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act.

## Detection and Tracking

Many dogs were used to locate mines, but did not prove to be very effective under combat conditions. Marine mine detecting dogs were trained using bare electric wires beneath the ground surface. The wires shocked the dogs, teaching them that danger lurked under the dirt. Once the dog's focus was properly directed, dummy mines were planted and the dogs were trained to signal their presence. While the dogs effectively found the mines, the task proved so stressful for the dogs they were only able to work between 20 and 30 minutes at a time. The mine detecting war dogs anticipated random shocks from the heretofore friendly earth, making them extremely nervous. The useful service life of the dogs was not long, and the program was eventually shut down.

Dogs have historically also been used in many cases to track fugitives and enemy troops, overlapping partly into the duties of a scout dog, but using their olfactory skill in tracking a scent, rather than warning a handler at the initial presentation of a scent.

## Scouts

Scout dogs were used in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam by the United States to detect ambushes, weapon caches, or enemy fighters hiding underwater, with only reed breathing straws showing above the waterline. Some dogs were trained to silently locate booby traps and concealed enemies such as snipers. The dog's keen senses of smell and hearing make them far more effective at detecting these dangers than humans. The best scout dogs are described as having a disposition intermediate to docile tracking dogs and

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## It is estimated by the United States War Dogs Association that war dogs saved over 10,000 U.S. lives in Vietnam.

aggressive attack dogs. During this time, the U.S. operated a number of scout dog platoons (assigned on a handler-and-dog team basis to individual patrols) and had a dedicated dog training school in Fort Benning, Georgia.

### Sentries

One of the earliest military-related uses, sentry dogs were used to defend camps or other priority areas at night and sometimes during the day. They would bark or growl to alert guards of a stranger's presence. During the Cold War, the American military used sentry dog teams outside of nuclear weapons storage areas. A test program was conducted in Vietnam to test sentry dogs, launched two days after a successful Vietcong attack on Da Nang Air Base (July 1, 1965). Forty dog teams were deployed to Vietnam for a four month test period, with teams placed on the perimeter in front of machine gun towers/bunkers. The detection of intruders resulted in a rapid deployment of reinforcements. The test was successful, so the handlers returned to the U.S.

while the dogs were reassigned to new handlers. The Air Force immediately started to ship dog teams to all the bases in Vietnam and Thailand.

The buildup of American forces in Vietnam created large dog sections at USAF Southeast Asia (SEA) bases. 467 dogs were eventually assigned to a number of air bases. Within a year of deployment, attacks on several bases had been stopped when the enemy forces were detected by dog teams. Captured Vietcong told of the fear and respect that they had for the dogs. The Vietcong even placed a bounty on lives of handlers and dogs. The success of sentry dogs was determined by the lack of successful penetrations of bases in Vietnam and Thailand. It is estimated by the United States War Dogs Association that war dogs saved over 10,000 U.S. lives in Vietnam. Sentry Dogs were also used by the Army, Navy, and Marines to protect the perimeter of large bases.



*1969: Muzzled sentry dogs and their handlers ride on the back of a truck as they return to their kennels and barracks after patrolling the perimeter of the Marble Mountain supply and communications center outpost of the U.S. Naval support activity in Danang during the Vietnam War, Republic of Vietnam.*

R. A. Elder/Hulton Archive/Getty Images



# Today



*U.S. Air Force military working dog Jackson sits on a U.S. Army M2A3 Bradley Fighting Vehicle before heading out on a mission in Kahn Bani Sahd, Iraq, Feb. 13, 2007. His handler is Tech. Sgt. Harvey Holt, of the 732nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron.*

## Modern Uses

Contemporary dogs in military roles are also often referred to as police dogs, or in the United States as a Military Working Dog (MWD), or K-9. Their roles are nearly as varied as their ancient cousins, though they tend to be more rarely used in front-line formations.

Traditionally, the most common breed for these police-type operations has been the German Shepherd; in recent years there has been a shift to smaller dogs with keener senses of

smell for detection work, and more resilient breeds such as the Belgian Malinois and Dutch Shepherd for patrolling and law enforcement. All MWDs in use today are paired with an individual handler after their training. While a handler usually won't stay with one dog for the length of either's career, usually a handler will stay partnered with a dog for at least a year, and sometimes much longer.



*U.S. Navy Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Jeremy Aldrich, attached to the K-9 Unit, Naval Security Force, and his military working dog Tyson, a four-year-old blue Belgium Malinois, take a break for some fun at an obstacle course in Bahrain May 7, 2007. The two have worked together in Bahrain for 18 months. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jennifer A. Villalovos) (Released)*

In the 1970s the U.S. Air Force used over 1600 dogs worldwide. Today, personnel cutbacks have reduced USAF dog teams to approximately 530, stationed throughout the world. Many dogs that operate in these roles are trained at Lackland Air Force Base, the only United States facility that currently trains dogs for military use.

Change has also come in legislature for the benefit of the canines. Prior to 2000, older war dogs were required to be euthanized. Thanks to a new law, retired military dogs may now be adopted, the first of which was Lex, a working dog whose handler was killed in Iraq.

There are numerous memorials dedicated to war dogs, including at March Field Air Museum in

Riverside, California, at The Infantry School, Ft. Benning, Georgia; at the Naval Facility, Guam, with replicas at the University of Tennessee, College of Veterinary Medicine in Knoxville and the Alfred M. Gray Marine Corps Research Center in Quantico, Virginia.

## Law Enforcement

As a partner in everyday military police work, dogs have proved versatile and loyal officers. Police dogs can chase suspects, track them if they are hidden, and guard them when they are caught. They are trained to respond viciously if their handler is attacked, and otherwise not to react at all unless they are commanded to do so by their handler. Many police dogs are also trained in detection as well.

U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jennifer A. Villalovos



As with narcotics, trained MWDs can detect minuscule amounts of a wide range of explosives, making them useful for searching entry points, patrolling within secure installations, and at checkpoints. These dogs are capable of achieving over a 98% success rate in bomb detection.



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Sabrina Johnson

*Staff Sgt. Sean Neisen searches vehicles with his dog, Goro E114, July 8 at the Vehicle Control Center at Ali Base, Iraq. Dog handlers are responsible for ensuring the safety and security of all coalition forces assigned here by searching vehicles that drive onto Contingency Operations Base Adder and Ali Base daily. Sergeant Neisen is a military working dog handler deployed to the 407th Provost Marshal Office from Ramstein Air Base, Germany.*

## Drug and Explosives Detection

Both MWDs and their civilian counterparts provide service in drug detection, sniffing out a broad range of psychoactive substances despite efforts at concealment. Provided they have been trained to detect it, MWDs can smell small traces of nearly any substance, even if it is in a sealed container. Dogs trained in drug detection are normally used at ports of embarkation such as airports, checkpoints, and other places where there is high security and a need for anti-contraband measures.

MWDs can also be trained to detect explosives. As with narcotics, trained MWDs can detect minuscule amounts of a wide range of explosives, making them useful for searching entry points, patrolling within secure installations, and at checkpoints. These dogs are capable of achieving over a 98% success rate in bomb detection.



*An U.S. Army military working dog, Andy, searches among rubble and trash outside a target building, during a joint operation with the Iraqi army and U.S. Soldiers of 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, in Rusafa, eastern Baghdad, Iraq, on Feb. 28. The Soldiers are searching for weapons caches and targeted insurgents.*

*The manner in which ambulance dogs are employed is to help the Red Cross men and doctors to search for wounded within a given area on the battlefield. A dog's sense of scent and acute hearing enable him frequently to detect the sound of the breathing of a wounded man when inaudible to the human ear. Moreover, a puff of wind often suffices to carry to the dog's nose the scent of a man lying possibly unconscious in some concealed place."*



## Therapy Dogs

During World War II, under combat operations against Japanese forces on the island of New Guinea, Corporal William Wynne found a young adult Yorkshire Terrier abandoned on the battlefield. Unable to care for the dog, he bought the female "Yorkie" and named her Smoky.

Smoky's small size enabled her to become a hero by helping engineers to build an airbase at Lingayen Gulf, Luzon, a crucial airfield for Allied aircraft. Early in the Luzon campaign, the Signal Corps needed to run a communication wire through a 70-foot long pipe that was eight inches in diameter. The pipe passed beneath the landing strip. Dirt had fallen through the corrugated pipe, filling as much as half of

the pipe, giving Smoky only four inches of headway in some places.

Wynne tied a string (itself attached to the communication wire) to Smoky's collar and ran to the other end of the pipe and called Smoky. The little yorkie crawled her way along the 70-foot long pipe into the arms of Corporal Wynne.

Smoky's work prevented the need to move 40 fighter aircraft while a construction detail dug up the taxiway. This would have placed them in jeopardy from enemy air bombardment. What would have been an extended construction job, was accomplished by this little dog in minutes.



Her service as a therapy dog began when Corporal Wynne was hospitalized for a jungle disease. As Wynne recovered, Wynne's Army pals brought Smoky to the hospital for a visit and to cheer the soldier up. Smoky immediately became a hit with the other wounded soldiers. Dr. Charles Mayo, of the famed Mayo Clinic, was the commanding officer who allowed Smoky to go on rounds and also permitted her to sleep with Wynne in his hospital bed for five nights. Smoky's work as a therapy dog continued for 12 years, during and after World War II.

A therapy dog's primary job is to allow unfamiliar people to make physical contact with it and to enjoy that contact. Children in particular enjoy hugging animals; adults usually enjoy simply petting the dog. The dog might need to be lifted onto, or climb onto, an individual's lap or bed and sit or lie comfortably there.

A therapy dog is a dog trained to provide affection and comfort to people in hospitals, retirement homes, nursing homes, schools, with people with learning difficulties, and stressful situations such as disaster areas. Therapy dogs come in all sizes and breeds. The most important characteristic of a therapy dog is its temperament. A good therapy dog must be

friendly, patient, confident, at ease in all situations, and gentle. Therapy dogs must enjoy human contact and be content to be petted and handled, sometimes clumsily.

The establishment of a systematic approach to the use of therapy dogs is attributed to Elaine Smith, an American who worked as a registered nurse for a time in England. Smith noticed how well patients responded to visits by a certain chaplain and his canine companion, a Golden Retriever. Upon returning to the United States in 1976, Smith started a program for training dogs to visit institutions. Over the years other health care professionals have noticed the therapeutic effect of animal companionship, such as relieving stress, lowering blood pressure, and raising spirits, and the demand for therapy dogs continues to grow. In recent years, therapy dogs have been enlisted to help children overcome speech and emotional disorders.





*Staff Sgt. Randall Blair talks about his military working dog, Midas, to Army Staff Sgt. Kaviraz German, from Fort War Horse, Iraq, March 24 at an air base in Southwest Asia. Sergeant German is enrolled in the In-Theater Care Program which uses various events like this to assist patients recovering from minor surgeries or other medical problems. Sergeant Blair is a K-9 handler with the 379th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, and is deployed from Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., with Midas. Sergeant German is deployed out of Fort Wainwright, Alaska.*

## Military Applications for Therapy Dogs

Over the last several years, the use of therapy dogs in the US military has become more prevalent. “Duece” the first therapy dog assigned to a U.S. Military Hospital was brought in for use at Walter Reed Medical Center in 2008. Since then, two others have been brought on board to assist wounded soldiers with any number of challenges. For example, the dogs take walks with patients who are missing legs both to encourage patients to get out and to get them accustomed to walking dogs they might already have. They also play fetch with patients who are missing arms so they can learn how to use their prosthetics and throw the ball. Dogs let patients lean on them for balance during therapy exercises, and even run in

marathons with wounded soldiers. Just as importantly, the dogs boost morale, bringing smiles to patients’ faces and helping them forget where they are.

Therapy dogs are also being used in-theatre through combat-stress units deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan to help soldiers relax and give them a little piece of home.

*“You have areas where occupational therapists in theater have to go and assess combat-stress situations where there may have been a death in the unit. Soldiers have been on constant deployments in areas where they haven’t had access to their families, with a phone call or whatever. What an*



*awesome thing to come back after pulling duty and have a nice dog waiting for you, wagging its tail or whatever. It has opened up the door for communications because a lot of times they don't want to talk to a therapist or say what's wrong with them. The dog helps them calm down, relax, and then open up a little bit more. The dogs have been very effective that we had a request for two more dogs to do the same type of work in Afghanistan."*

—Deuce's Owner

*Harvey Naranjo, in charge of adaptive sports and community reintegration programs at Walter Reed Hospital.*

## Supporting the Dogs of War

So, with the surge in the dog population among U.S. Military installations, the natural question becomes – how are the dogs cared for and where do the resources come from to manage their care?

## Kandahar Afghanistan

The primary purpose of the USFOR-A Military Working Dog (MWD) program in Southern Afghanistan is to provide explosives detection and narcotics detection support to rear and forward operating U.S. and Coalition Forces. The dog and handler teams are truly a joint



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Gina Chiverotti-Paige

*Senior Airman Beaun Clegg feeds dogs in the early morning July 9 at Moody Air Force Base, Ga. Airman Clegg fed the dogs before a 4-mile ruck march. He is a military working dog handler with the 822nd Security Forces Squadron.*

.....  
**"The capability...military working dogs bring to the fight cannot be replicated by man or machine. By all measures of performance, their yield outperforms any asset we have in our inventory. Our Army would be remiss if we failed to invest more in this incredibly valuable resource."**

**– General David H. Patraeus**

endeavor with teams from every branch of service contributing to the overall makeup. Almost all of the dogs bring an "attack" capability to the fight. They are used as a less than lethal tool within the Use of Force continuum in accordance with published Rules of Engagement in order to enforce laws and directives as well as search for suspects.

The narcotics dogs provide detection capability that serves to preserve the good order and discipline on a base or Forward Operating Base. They are used in various roles to include health, morale, and welfare inspections to help ensure commanders' warfighters are prepared to execute the mission.

Explosives detection MWDs are primarily utilized "outside the wire" on missions such as: Snap Traffic Control Operations (TCP), Dismounted Combat Patrols, Cache searches, Route Clearance, and Cordon and Search Operations. They have found numerous IEDs, weapons, bomb making materials, and explosives, each of which is removed from the insurgents' means to use them against U.S. and Coalition Forces, thereby saving lives.

Although operational units are able to conduct missions without dogs, the teams are considered to be an enabler allowing units to conduct missions safer and more efficiently. Their value to the war effort was probably best captured in a statement by General David H. Patraeus when he said, "The

capability...military working dogs bring to the fight cannot be replicated by man or machine. By all measures of performance, their yield outperforms any asset we have in our inventory. Our Army would be remiss if we failed to invest more in this incredibly valuable resource."

GSA is proud to support these very important programs by supplying dog food, crates, and other canine handling supplies critical to DLA's MWD's deployed all over the world.

GSA offers a vast array of products and services through a range of procurement programs. GSA Global Supply™ is a one-stop source for all military and agency support needs, including dog food and kennel supplies. GSA's Multiple Award Schedules Program offers agencies access to a nearly limitless selection of dog supplies from food to collars, bedding, training devices, and even flea and tick treatments through a variety of commercial vendors. Specifically, MAS 84, Total Solutions for Law Enforcement, offers Canine Training and Handling Equipment.

For more information on how GSA can meet your agency needs, please visit our Web site at [www.gsa.gov](http://www.gsa.gov), *GSA Advantage!*® at [www.GSAAdvantage.gov](http://www.GSAAdvantage.gov) or GSA eLibrary at [www.gsaelibrary.gsa.gov](http://www.gsaelibrary.gsa.gov).





*Structure on base where the working dogs and their handlers depart from to commence their daily activities.*



*Back Row from left to right: GSA Rep Miguel Luzunaris, SSgt Schwartz, SPC Hedgecoth, MA1 Dominguez, SGT Dionne, SSgt Wheeler  
Front Row from left to right: SPC Cartwright and SSD (Specialized Search Dog Isaac N271), TSgt Mendez and NDD (Narcotic Detection Dog Rex L322), SGT McGhee and SSD (Specialized Search Dog Archie J180). The program Manager for these group at the time was MSGT Jerry Wood substituted by MSGT Bryan Dean.*





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# SKILCRAFT®

## U.S. Government Pens

41 Years of Quality, Millions of Memories



The 41-year-old SKILCRAFT® U.S. Government Pen has been hailed as an “American icon” in a feature story published on the front page of the Washington Post on April 18, 2010. Washington Post reporter Ylan Mui became interested in the “ubiquitous” pen after finding dozens of them around her house. An excerpt from her story, which has also been syndicated nationally, follows.



*Helen Jones, a Greensboro PA employee*

“For more than 40 years, standard black pens have cluttered the desks of thousands of federal employees, hung on a chain at post offices across the country and slipped into the pockets of countless military personnel. Yet few have realized that this government-issue pen has a history to rival that of any monument.”

Irving R. Dickman, in his book *“Creating Jobs, Changing Lives,”* which covers the history of the Wagner-O’Day Act from 1966–1988, said the General Services Administration (GSA) sought National Industries for the Blind (NIB), as an AbilityOne Program central nonprofit agency, as a producer of a new pen for government sale due to GSA’s 13 million defective pens it had on hand. Dickman wrote: “If

there was a single key to government acceptance and the success of the [SKILCRAFT®] ballpoint pen project, it was the quality of the product.”

Employees who are blind assemble the U.S. Government pens in factories at Industries for the Blind in West Allis, Wisconsin, and at Industries of the Blind in Greensboro, North Carolina, under NIB’s SKILCRAFT® brand name. These pens are sold through a variety of online and store outlets, including GSA, under the AbilityOne Program, a 72-year-old federal legislative procurement mandate.

The SKILCRAFT® U.S. Government pens are still made to the original 14-page specifications that include: the



ability to write in temperatures from 40 degrees below zero to 160 degrees above zero Fahrenheit. The pen was required to write at 5,232 feet.

Other U.S. Government pen specs remembered by NIB employees include:

1. By military spec, the pen can be used as a medical device, for example, in performing a tracheotomy.
2. The pen is used as a measuring device by the Navy. The point to tip is 150 nautical miles.
3. Originally the pen had just a silver band and it was jazzed up by adding “black racing stripes around the band” and people thought it was a new pen.

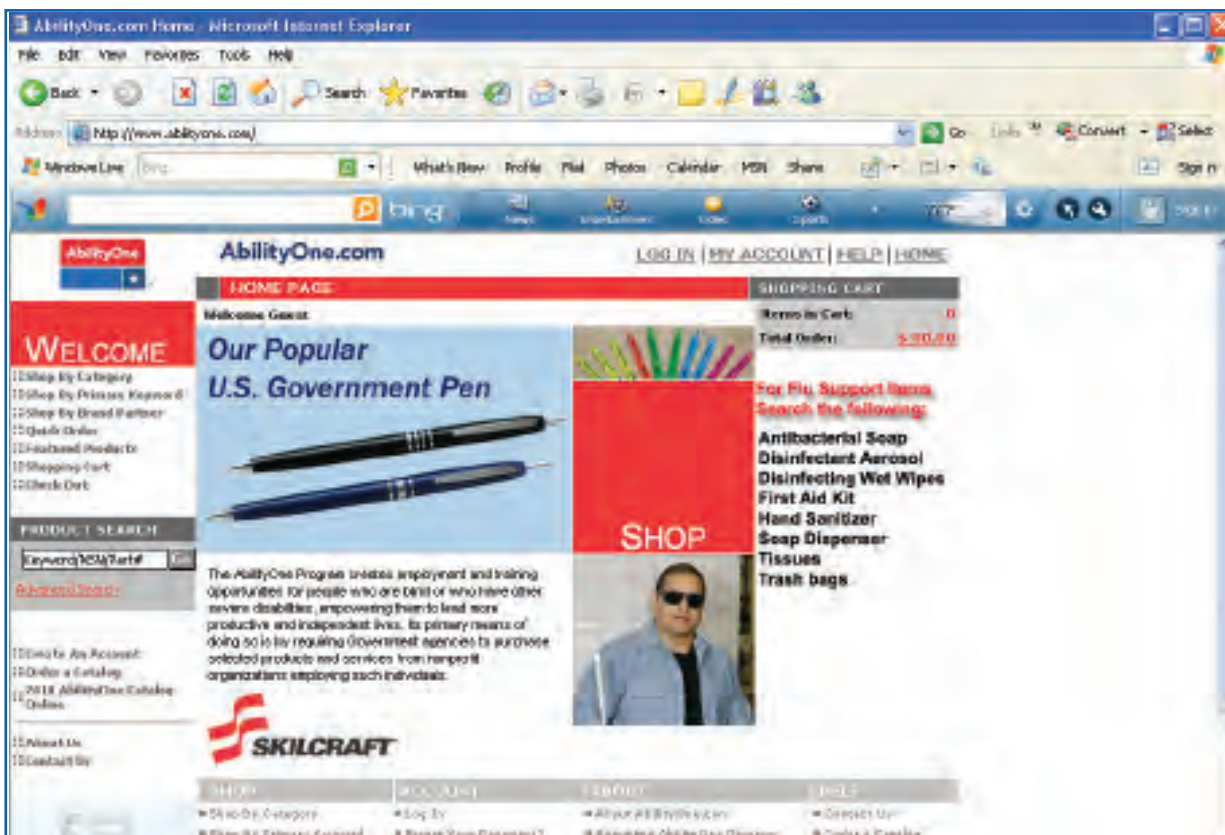
Richard Oliver, operations manager for Industries of the Blind in North Carolina thinks the pen is as recognizable as Coca-Cola. “It seems like everybody recognizes this pen.”

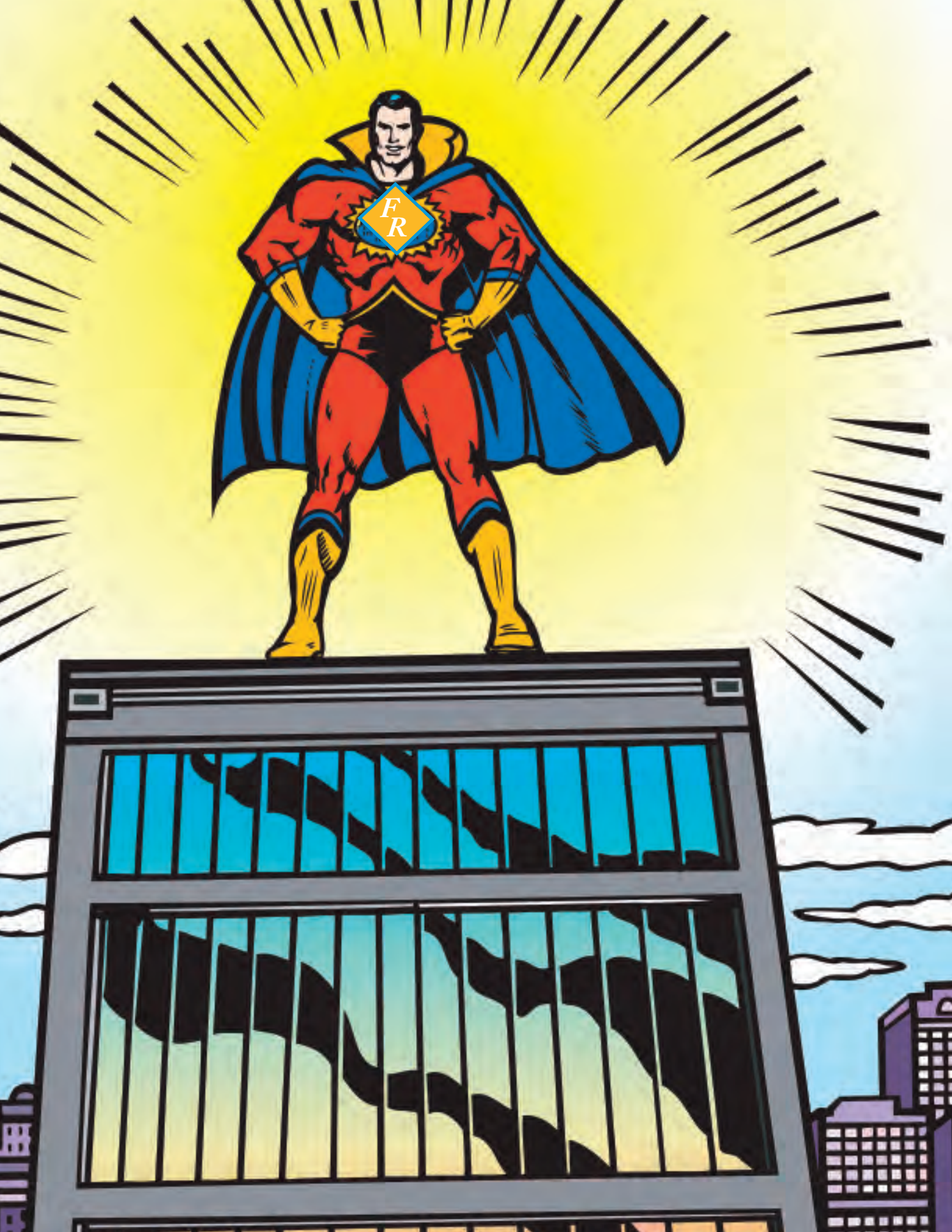
It also seems like these pens can show up almost anywhere. “I remember stopping for gas in the middle of nowhere on a



trip to Texas and the gas attendant handed me a SKILCRAFT® government pen to sign the credit card slip,” said Kevin A. Lynch, President and CEO, NIB.

Providing employment opportunities to 46,000 people, the AbilityOne Program is the largest single source of employment for people who are blind or have other significant disabilities in the United States. More than 600 participating nonprofit organizations employ these individuals and provide quality products and services to the federal government at a fair market price. The AbilityOne Program is administered by the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled ([www.abilityone.gov](http://www.abilityone.gov)), an independent Federal agency, with assistance from National Industries for the Blind (NIB, [www.nib.org](http://www.nib.org)) and NISH-Creating Employment Opportunities for People with Severe Disabilities ([www.nish.org](http://www.nish.org)).








# FedRooms

## Rest Assured Tales

By Garlette Jordan

Gina has been working for GSA for quite some time, and travels on occasion. Late last summer she was slated to attend a training conference at the Seattle regional office, but wasn't sure if she would be going because her work responsibilities were evolving. She would be attending the conference with Victor, her colleague.



The office planning the training conference negotiated a group rate within per diem at a hotel close to the GSA building. However, by the time Gina got approval to make travel arrangements, all the rooms were booked at the first property, so she made reservations at the overflow hotel. Victor checked out the FedRooms® listing of preferred properties and selected a hotel close to the Seattle regional office.

Upon arriving at the hotel in Seattle, Gina discovered she was at a decent property, but it was really far from the conference site and the other attendees. Gina had to spend extra money for transportation to and from the hotel and the conference site. Victor however, was within walking distance from the conference site as well as downtown restaurants and shopping. His hotel room had many amenities including a luxurious marble bathroom with separate soaking tub and shower, pillowtop mattress, and a choice of city, water, and mountain views, with the option for Victor to gain loyalty program points toward future visits.

## The FedRooms Advantage

When a conference is held at a GSA Facility - in this case, the Seattle Regional office - accommodations are generally available at the per diem rate for attendees.

But, when a conference is held at a hotel, accommodations are provided for attendees, and light refreshments are served during breaks, the conference planner is authorized to negotiate a price as much as 25 percent above the going lodging rate limit, increasing the cost to the agency and ultimately, the taxpayer.

When attending a conference, consider saving agency and taxpayer dollars by booking at nearby FedRooms properties which are not only available at per diem but often can be secured for rates *below* per diem, well below the higher conference rate.

Remember FedRooms® when planning your travel. Rest assured you got the best hotel rate.

For more information about FedRooms, go to GSA's Web site at [www.gsa.gov/fedrooms](http://www.gsa.gov/fedrooms) and from there click on the FedRooms hyperlink to access the reservation booking tool. Make sure you use the "search by address" tool and sort the properties by distance to make sure the hotel you select is close to your conference site.

*\* These are actual travel experiences. The travelers' names have been changed to protect their privacy and hotel names omitted in fairness to other participating properties.*



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# Put AbilityOne to Work for You

National Disability Employment Awareness Month



October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) – a time during which Congress, the President, and the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled (the independent federal agency which administers the AbilityOne Program) educate the American public about issues related to disability and employment.



This year also marks the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). As Valerie Jarrett, Senior Advisor to President Barack Obama, said, “The ADA was a landmark civil rights legislation. It was a bill of rights for persons with disabilities, a formal acknowledgement that Americans with disabilities are Americans first and that they’re entitled to the same rights and freedoms as everybody else.”

You can take advantage of October’s National Disability Employment Awareness Month observance and the ADA celebration to recognize the achievements of the AbilityOne Program and the people it employs in support of federal customers. NDEAM is an exceptional time to celebrate the successes of the AbilityOne Program, and numerous opportunities exist throughout the year to celebrate and educate – new contract awards, ribbon-cutting ceremonies, milestones, visits by prominent individuals, and awards presentations.

People who are blind or have other significant disabilities remain one of America’s greatest untapped labor resources, with 70 percent not employed. The Americans with Disabilities Act and other laws have broken through many of the barriers that have kept Americans with disabilities out of the workforce, but attitudinal barriers remain the greatest challenge to employment. This population is a reliable workforce, capable of meeting or exceeding industry quality standards. Through employment, people who are blind or have severe disabilities achieve greater independence, reduce dependence on government support, and join the ranks of taxpayers. Thank you for helping Put AbilityOne to Work for You.



## How much do you know about disabilities?

### Take this quiz and find out.

### Myths, Misconceptions, and Realities of Disability

TRUE or FALSE

- \_\_\_1. People who are deaf cannot speak.
- \_\_\_2. People with disabilities live very different lives than people without disabilities.
- \_\_\_3. It is important to place people with disabilities in jobs where they will not fail.
- \_\_\_4. People with disabilities are not more likely to have accidents than other employees.
- \_\_\_5. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing make ideal employees in noisy work environments.
- \_\_\_6. Certain jobs are more suited to people with disabilities.
- \_\_\_7. People who are blind have exceptional hearing.
- \_\_\_8. Persons with disabilities are unable to meet performance standards, thus making them a bad employment risk.
- \_\_\_9. People who use wheelchairs cannot work in a fast-paced, pressure job.
- \_\_\_10. People with disabilities tend to do work of higher quality than employees without disabilities.



## TRUE or FALSE (answers)

### 1. People who are deaf cannot speak.

**FALSE:** Deafness alone does not affect the vocal cords, although it can affect a person's ability to hear and monitor the sounds they make. Some people who are deaf make a conscious choice not to use their voice while others choose to speak. The type and degree of hearing loss as well as the age of the person when they become deaf (i.e., before or after learning to speak English) also influences their speech.

### 2. People with disabilities live very different lives than people without disabilities.

**FALSE:** Overall, people with disabilities live the same as you and I. Although some ways of doing things may be a little bit different depending on the type and severity of the disability. For example, someone with limited use of their arms and legs can drive, but their car will be fitted with hand controls for gas and brakes and possibly a special handle to grip on the steering wheel.

### 3. It is important to place people with disabilities in jobs where they will not fail.

**FALSE:** Everyone has the right to fail as well as to succeed. Be careful not to hold someone back from a position or a promotion because you think there is a possibility that he or she might fail in the position. If this person is the best qualified candidate, give them the same opportunity to try that you would anyone else.

### 4. People with disabilities are not more likely to have accidents than other employees.

**TRUE:** Two studies, one conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and another by the DuPont Company, support the findings that workers with disabilities performed significantly higher than their non-disabled counterparts in the area of safety. These studies included people in professional, technical, managerial, operational, labor, clerical and service areas. It evaluated individuals with orthopedic, vision, heart, health, and hearing disabilities. Conclusion: Workers with disabilities are more often aware, not less, of safety issues in the workplace.

### 5. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing make ideal employees in noisy work environments.

**FALSE:** Loud noises of a certain vibratory nature can cause further harm to the auditory system. People who are deaf or hard of hearing should be hired for all jobs that they have the skills and talents to perform. No person with a disability should be prejudged regarding employment opportunities.

### 6. Certain jobs are more suited to people with disabilities.

**FALSE:** As with all people, certain jobs may be better suited to some than to others. While there are obvious bad job matches (such as someone who is blind and wants to be a bus driver, or someone who is quadriplegic and wants to be a loader for a shipping company), be careful not to pigeon hole people into or out of certain occupations based on their disability. Just because you can only think of one way to do something does not mean that other ways do not exist that are equally effective.



**7. People who are blind have exceptional hearing.**

**FALSE:** A person's vision, or lack of vision, does not affect their hearing. However, someone who is blind may depend more on their hearing than a sighted counterpart.

**8. Persons with disabilities are unable to meet performance standards, thus making them a bad employment risk.**

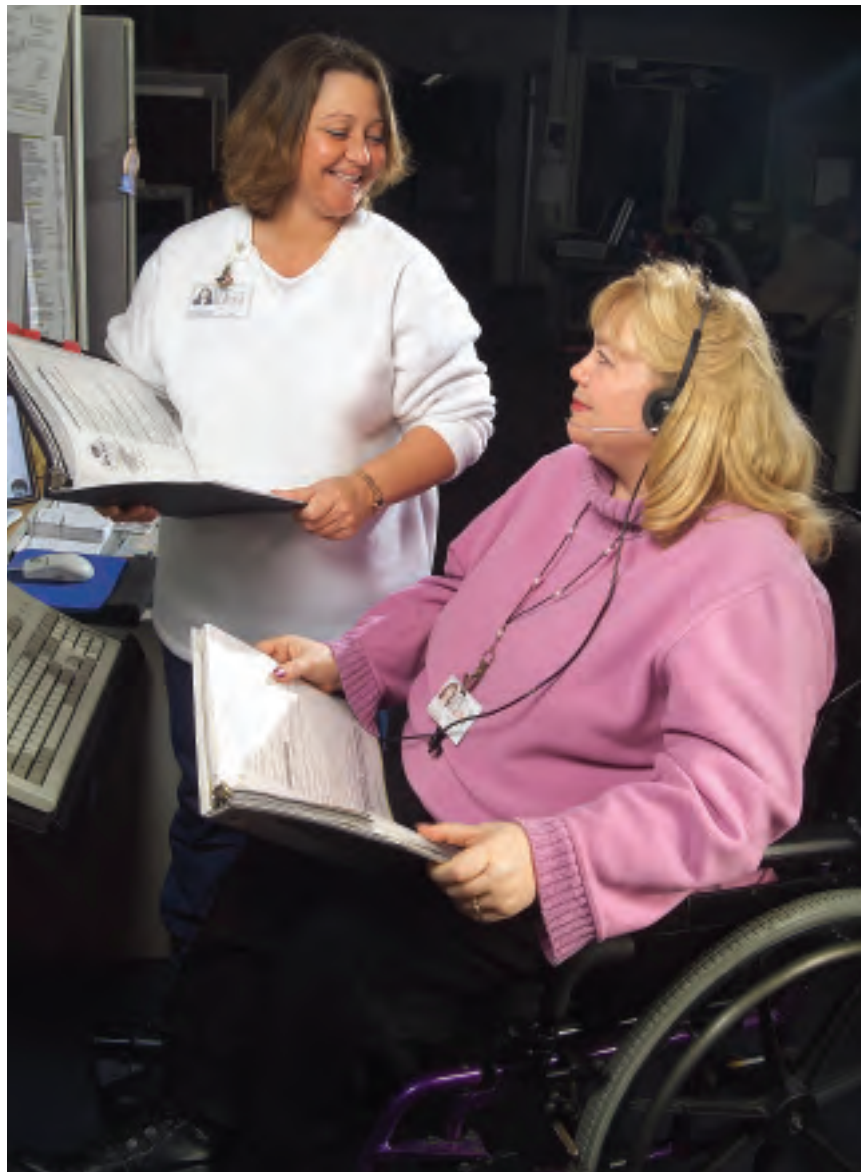
**FALSE:** In 1990, DuPont conducted a survey of 811 employees with disabilities and found that 90 percent rated average or better in job performance compared to 95 percent for employees without disabilities. A similar 1981 DuPont study which involved 2,745 employees with disabilities found that 92 percent of employees with disabilities rated average or better in job performance compared to 90 percent of employees without disabilities. The 1981 study results were comparable to DuPont's job performance study.

**9. People who use wheelchairs cannot work in a fast-paced, pressure job.**

**FALSE:** The ability to use a wheelchair is separate from ability to work quickly and to work under stress. Give the person ample room to maneuver their chair and let them go!

**10. People with disabilities tend to do work of higher quality than employees without disabilities.**

**TRUE:** In several studies, including those previously mentioned, it was found that 91 percent of the workers with disabilities scored average or higher when compared to the general workforce. Their attendance is also better.



# GSA SmartPay2

Travel Charge Cards Allow Use  
for Local Travel Transactions



GSA SmartPay®, established in 1998, is the world's largest government charge card program, serving over 350 federal agencies, organizations, and Native American tribal governments. The program provides federal employees with a secure, convenient, and efficient procurement and payment tool in the form of approximately three million government charge cards with worldwide acceptance.





GSA SmartPay enables agencies, organizations, and Native American tribal governments to obtain purchase, travel, fleet, and integrated charge cards through a Master Contract. GSA SmartPay and its contractor banks continue to focus on enabling smarter use of cards and card-related services through strategic sourcing initiatives, new product and service offerings to meet the evolving needs of agencies and judicious adoption of improvements in the payments industry, security enhancements, and the development of innovative tools and program technology to better manage charge card program information and reporting.

## Travel Focus

The GSA SmartPay2 travel charge card provides cardholders with a convenient solution to pay for official government travel and travel-related purchases. Having access to the GSA SmartPay2 travel charge card provides agencies and organizations with many benefits, including savings on travel processing costs, and revenue generation through volume refunds. Due to a recent change in the GSA SmartPay2 master contract, specific provisions have been made for local travel.



## Local Travel

Employees of non-DoD Agencies can utilize the travel card for things such as taxi fare, metro fare, or other work related expenses incurred while traveling in the employee's local area for meetings, local conferences, or training in accordance with the agency's specific policies and procedures.

Organizations may notice a slightly modified travel card design which will read "FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY." In addition, the Office of Charge Card Management will update its publications and training modules, and require the contractor banks to make appropriate changes to their cardholder agreements. It is important to note that agencies/organizations may not utilize the travel charge card for local travel until cardholder agreements have been updated.

The OCCM will provide assistance to agencies/organizations that are interested in updating policies and procedures to include local travel and will provide a sample Local Travel Management Plan to agencies/organizations in the near future.

Additional resources pertaining to the GSA SmartPay program and travel charge cards can be located at [www.gsa.gov/gsmartpay](http://www.gsa.gov/gsmartpay). For questions regarding travel charge card use, including use for local travel, please contact the Office of Charge Card Management at (703) 605-2808 or [gsa\\_smartpay@gsa.gov](mailto:gsa_smartpay@gsa.gov).

# Detroit's Crown Jewel

Theodore Levin U.S. Courthouse







In 1932, construction began on the Detroit Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse. Completed in 1934, it was designed in the art deco and Art Moderne styles of architecture, incorporating granite and limestone into the structure. This historic building occupies a full office block and towers ten stories. On May 1, 1995, the courthouse was officially designated the Theodore Levin United States Courthouse. Theodore Levin served on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan from 1946 until his death in 1970. From 1959 to 1967, he was the Chief Judge of that court.

To this day, the courthouse remains one of Detroit's most beautiful and historically significant buildings. The lobby has a central walkway and domed ceiling with original, intricate hand painting. All halls have marble floors and all public restrooms are wheelchair accessible. The building also features several ornamental bas-relief sculptural groupings created by noted Detroit architectural modeler Corrado Joseph Parducci. Parducci designed the sculptural panels and medallions to depict various agencies and activities of the federal government at the time.

*Left: A look toward the bench from the back of the courtroom.*

*Above: A large medallion that looms above the judge from behind the bench.*

## *T*he “Million Dollar Courtroom”

There are twenty-four courtrooms, six of which are historic. One, known as the “Million Dollar Courtroom” due to its original cost in the 1890s, was painstakingly disassembled when the original courthouse was demolished and then reassembled in the current building, where it is still in use today.



*The Million-Dollar Courtroom from the old Federal Building was saved and today lives on in the Levin Federal Courthouse.*

This massive undertaking was done at the insistence of the residing Chief Justice at the time, Chief Judge Arthur Tuttle, who, in 1931, “appealed to William Rush of the Treasury Department to save his



*A look at the inside wall and its marble archways.*

district courtroom in the original courthouse building from demolition.” The walls of the courtroom were constructed of approximately 30 different types of marble that came from many states and foreign countries. The value of this feature alone, even in 1931, justified the preservation. It is reported that the Chief Judge refused to agree to the construction of a new courthouse until the government agreed to preserve his courtroom. For this, Tuttle became known as “the judge who wouldn’t budge.”

.....  
“It is such a moving experience to be in that courtroom,” says Judge Keith, recalling such cases as the eight-month trial of Anthony Giacalone, one of the suspects in the 1975 disappearance of Teamsters President Jimmy Hoffa.  
“It inspired me as a judge, and I’m sure that the juries, the attorneys, and others who worked there have felt the same. You want to walk the extra mile in the pursuit of truth and justice when you are in that courtroom.”



The reconstructed courtroom, completed in 1933, remains true to the original space. The bench is undoubtedly the most dramatic feature of the room, carved from East Indian mahogany, and flanked by two 12-foot-tall columns of Italian marble, each topped by four lions holding up a globe. Behind the bench is a frieze of ten female figures depicting the purity of justice.

A frieze of more than 100 unique lions' heads surrounds the room just below the ceiling. Only the floor and ceiling were modernized when the room was reassembled. A portrait of the courtroom's champion, Judge Tuttle, adorns the wall near the front, in the company of other important judges, including Chief Judge Theodore Levin, namesake of the federal court building. Chief Justice of the United States John Roberts has reportedly described this place as one of the finest and most beautiful courtrooms he has seen.



*A portrait of Judge Arthur J. Tuttle, the man who saved the Million-Dollar Courtroom, hangs in the room next to the bench.*



*The intricately carved mahogany bench for the court's chief judge.*



*The lions that flank the bench hold a globe, denoting the strength of justice.*



*One of the grotesques that look over the court from behind the judge.*



## *T*he Presidents Wall - Expanding the Legacy

Earlier this year, GSA spearheaded the design and installation of a new exhibit in Detroit's Levin Federal Courthouse. The exhibit, known as "The Presidents Wall", was conceived, fabricated, and installed in less than five months using a GSA Multiple Award Schedule (MAS) Program vendor. GSA provided internal logistical support to help facilitate the contracting process and ensure on-time delivery of this high profile exhibit. The exhibit was officially unveiled at the 2010 Law Day Celebration held at the courthouse in May, hosted by the United States District Court and the Eastern District of Michigan Chapter of the Federal Bar Association.

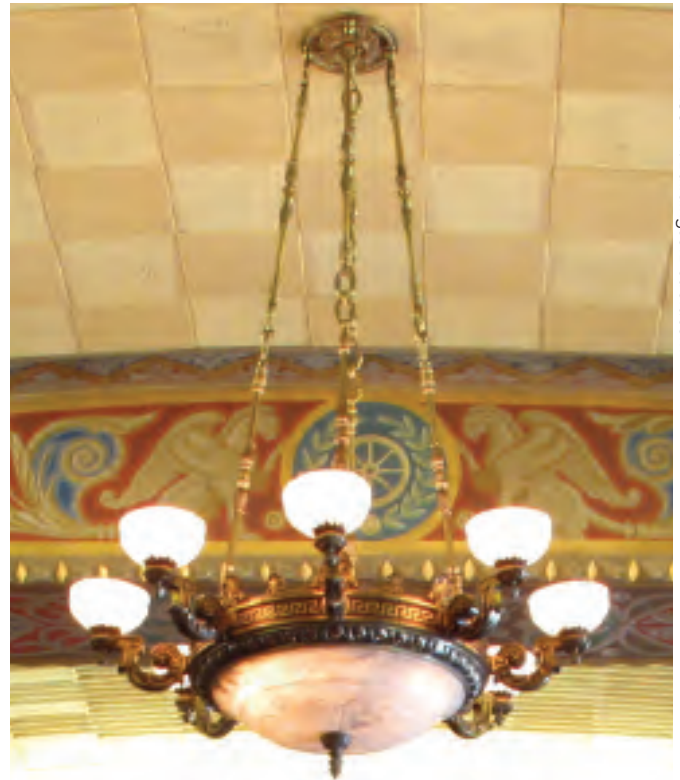


Displayed in the lobby of the courthouse, the Presidents Wall includes paintings from the Library of Congress of all past presidents, along with a quote from each one. The display can expand to accommodate more presidents as time passes, with the current president depicted in large format. The exhibit was carefully designed to ensure that it complements the historic nature of the courthouse.

Judicial staff and visitors to the courthouse can be seen taking their time to look closely at the Presidents Wall, whether they are admiring the display, testing their knowledge of history, or being inspired by the quotations.



**Law Day 2010** included participation from a number of agencies displaying exhibits related to justice and law enforcement. The complimentary program was open to the public. Agency participants included the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Coast Guard, Border Patrol, Consumer Bankruptcy Association, DEA, FBI, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Attorney's Office, and the U.S. District Court. For more information regarding the Law Day programs, please visit the Court's Web site at [www.mied.uscourts.gov](http://www.mied.uscourts.gov) or the Eastern District of Michigan Chapter of the Federal Bar Association's Web site at [www.fbamich.org](http://www.fbamich.org).



DAN AUSTIN/BuildingsofDetroit.com

*The chandelier salvaged from the old Federal Building.*



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## **GSA's Historic Preservation**

**Program** provides technical and strategic expertise to promote the viability, reuse, and integrity of historic buildings GSA owns, leases, and has the opportunity to acquire. For more information on GSA's Historic Preservation efforts, please visit: [www.gsa.gov/historicpreservation](http://www.gsa.gov/historicpreservation).

*The back wall features one of the marble archways and a finely crafted mahogany door.*



**GSA's Multiple Award Schedule Program** offers agencies access to a nearly limitless selection of products and services to meet any agency requirement. For more information on how GSA can meet your agency needs, please visit our Web site at [www.gsa.gov](http://www.gsa.gov), GSA Advantage!® at [www.GSAAdvantage.gov](http://www.GSAAdvantage.gov) or GSA eLibrary at [www.gsaelibrary.gsa.gov](http://www.gsaelibrary.gsa.gov).

For more information on Historical Federal Courthouses, including the Theodore Levin United States Courthouse, please visit: [www.fjc.gov/history/courthouses.nsf](http://www.fjc.gov/history/courthouses.nsf).



DAN AUSTIN/BuildingsofDetroit.com

*The lions that flank the bench hold a globe, denoting the strength of justice.*



DAN AUSTIN/BuildingsofDetroit.com

**Images were provided by Dan Austin/**

**BuildingsofDetroit.com.** BuildingsofDetroit.com

is a two-person effort by a historian and a photographer to spread the history of Detroit's architectural structures, including the Levin courthouse and the former Federal Building. By documenting buildings - both past and present day - they hope to raise awareness about preservation of Detroit's history and landmarks. For more information please visit them on the web at [buildingsofdetroit.com](http://buildingsofdetroit.com).

*One of the sconces and a marble circle filled with different kinds of marble.*

Sources for Detroit's Crown Jewel: Federal Judicial Center [www.fjc.gov/history/courthouses.nsf](http://www.fjc.gov/history/courthouses.nsf)

Wikipedia: [wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodore\\_Levin\\_United\\_States\\_Courthouse](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodore_Levin_United_States_Courthouse)

Motion Magazine: "Jewel of Justice: Preserved Courtroom Defines Elegance"

[www.legalnews.com/motion/article.php?article\\_id=100](http://www.legalnews.com/motion/article.php?article_id=100)

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The GSA Professional Development and Training Section reserves the right to cancel any training session that may be affected by adverse weather, federal emergency or government related closure. Training will be cancelled and rescheduled at a later date. GSA will not be responsible for any additional travel expenses incurred by the student or his/her agency due to adverse weather, federal emergency or government related closure.

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## LECTURE COURSES

### 1700 – Travel Basics

#### One Day Course (\$329)

This is a “must take” course if you are new to travel or need a quick refresher on the basic application of travel regulations, programs and procedures. All travelers should take this course to “know before they go” in order to ease the stress of official travel and avoid costly mistakes. The course “Travel Guide” serves as the course textbook as well as a handy travel reference guide! Students will learn how to plan a complete itinerary, select appropriate vendors, finalize arrangements, and complete travel documents. This course is ideal for newly hired government employees, interns, infrequent travelers, and authorizing/supervising/policy officials.

### 1745 – Relocation Allowances: Federal Travel Regulations (FTR) (\$980)

This class explains, in plain language, the allowances provided to eligible civilian employees making a permanent change of duty station. Course content: travel authorizations, advances and vouchers; service agreements; househunting and en route travel; temporary quarters; shipment of household goods/automobiles; property management; real estate expenses; miscellaneous expenses; and last move home. Fast-changing updates and streamlining of federal travel allowances make annual (or even twice yearly) training strongly advised.

### 1750 – Relocation Income Tax Allowances (RITA) (\$895)

This course looks at the treatment of reimbursed moving expenses by federal tax regulations. Students learn to distinguish between federal tax regulations and the FTR in reaching correct decisions concerning the Relocation Income Tax (RIT) allowances and its impact on personnel assigned to new duty stations.

Frequent changes in tax laws and regulations make annual training advisable for those who must know how to identify and calculate allowable moving expenses and taxable income. Instructional methods include lectures and discussions. Students should bring hand calculators to class.



### 1755 – Shipping Household Goods and Transportation Management Services Solution (TMSS) Two-Day Course (\$895)

This course examines regulations on household goods and transportation. Students review entitlement and transportation regulations, practice preparing and making shipments, and work with loss and damage claims.

Now included in Shipping Household Goods, information on Transportation Management Service Solution (TMSS) which is the first comprehensive online freight and household goods transportation management system designed exclusively for federal civilian agencies. Demonstration of this dynamic new system will enable GSA customers to effectively and efficiently manage the entire transportation process and execute the following tasks online: Rate and route shipments, book shipments, generate bills of lading, track and trace shipments, view proof of delivery, perform repayment audits, pay for transportation services, resolve service and billing disputes, file/settle loss and damage claims, generate transportation reports, perform data analysis and facilitate post payment audits.

### 1760 – Temporary Duty Travel Federal Travel Regulation (FTR) (\$875)

This lecture course teaches students how to compute temporary-duty travel allowances and responsibilities concerning: travel authorizations; allowable transportation; Fly America Act; contract city-pair fares; per diem allowances; actual expense; eTravel Service (eTS); government travel charge card; receipt requirements; emergency travel; conference per diem allowance; miscellaneous expenses; and submission of vouchers. Fast-changing updates and streamlining of federal travel allowances make annual (or even twice yearly) training strongly advised.



## LECTURE COURSES

### 1780 – Conference Planning Six-Hour Session (\$550)

This course teaches students the new travel regulations on conference planning, allowing agencies to increase per diem and pay for light refreshments. Discussion includes: where to hold meetings and conferences nationwide; obtaining proposals; estimating budget costs; what's included in room rate; using approved hotel accommodations; agency requirements for conferences; and the best times to hold conferences.

### 2060 – Advanced Temporary Duty Travel – Federal Travel Regulation One-Day Course (\$620)

This advanced course provides in-depth discussion of the statute pertaining to travel authorizations and per diem allowances for domestic and foreign travel.

Discussion includes long-term Temporary Duty (TDY) assignments, mandatory use of the contract city-pair fares, and arranging travel services in accordance with FTR amendment 2003-7, eTravel Services, effective January 21, 2004. Additional topics include the mandatory use of the charge card, when conference per diem is allowed, miscellaneous expenses, receipt requirements, and voucher submission. Fast-changing updates and streamlining of federal travel allowances make annual (or even twice yearly) training strongly advised.



### 3000 – Temporary Duty Travel – Federal Travel Regulation (FTR)

For more details on registration and payment, please contact the GSA Professional Development and Training Section at (703) 605-0555, or visit our Web site at

[www.gsa.gov/traveltraining](http://www.gsa.gov/traveltraining).

## LECTURE COURSES ON-SITE SPECIAL

### 1761 – Approving Official Responsibilities: Federal Travel Regulation (On-Site Arrangements Only)

The travel authorizing/approving official or his/her designee (e.g., supervisor of the traveler) must review and sign travel claims to confirm the authorized travel. The reviewing official must have full knowledge of the employee's activities. He/she must ensure that: the claim is properly prepared in accordance with the pertinent regulations and agency procedures; a copy of authorization for travel is provided; the types of expenses claimed are authorized and allowable expenses; the amounts claimed are accurate; and the required receipts, statements, and justifications are attached with the voucher. Course content: travel authorizations; allowable transportation; contract city-pair fares; per diem allowances; actual expense; eTravel Service (eTS); government travel charge card; receipt requirements; miscellaneous expenses; submission of vouchers; and approving official's responsibilities.

For more information, please call the Travel Training Branch at (703) 605-0555, or email us at [travel.training@gsa.gov](mailto:travel.training@gsa.gov).



## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OFFERINGS

### 1765 – Temporary Duty Travel: Joint Federal Travel Regulations, Volume 1; (Uniformed Services \$875)

This course teaches students to understand temporary-duty travel allowances and responsibilities for uniform members for the Department of Defense. Topics covered are: travel orders; contract travel office (CTO); allowable transportation; fly America act; contract city-pair fares; per diem allowances; meal allowances; actual expense; government travel charge card; receipt requirements; emergency travel; conference per diem allowance; miscellaneous expenses; and submission of vouchers. Fast-changing updates and streamlining of travel allowances make annual (or even twice yearly) training strongly advised.

### 1770 – Temporary Duty Travel: Joint Travel Regulations (JTR), Volume 2 (\$875)

This course teaches students how to understand temporary-duty travel allowances and responsibilities in accordance with the Joint Travel Regulations, Volume 2 for civilian employees with the Department of Defense. Topics covered include: travel orders; contract travel office (CTO); allowable transportation; fly America act; contract city-pair fares; per diem allowances; meal allowances; actual expense; government travel charge card; receipt requirements; emergency travel; conference per diem allowance; miscellaneous expenses; and submission of vouchers. Fast-changing updates and streamlining of travel regulations make annual (or even twice yearly) training strongly advised.

### 1775 – Relocation Allowances: Joint Travel Regulations, Volume 2; Three-Day Course (\$980)

This course explains allowances provided to eligible Department of Defense civilian employees making a permanent change of duty station. Course content: travel orders, advances and vouchers, service agreements, house hunting and en route travel, temporary quarters, shipment of household goods/automobiles, property management, real estate expenses, miscellaneous expenses, and last move to home entitlement. Fast changing updates and streamlining of federal travel allowances make annual (or even twice yearly) training strongly advisable.



### 2070 – Advanced Temporary Duty Travel: Joint Travel Regulations (JTR), Volume 2; One-Day Course (\$620)

This course provides in-depth discussion of the statute pertaining to travel orders, per diem allowances for domestic and foreign travel, transportation allowances, mandatory use of the contract airline city-pair fares, Defense Travel Service (DTS, Fly America Act, and the Civilian Board of Contract Appeals Travel Cases). Additional topics include the mandatory use of the charge card, miscellaneous expenses, receipt requirements, and voucher submission. Fast changing updates and streamlining of federal travel allowances make annual or even twice yearly training strongly advisable.



## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ON-SITE SPECIAL

### 1771 – Approving Official Responsibilities: Joint Federal Regulations, Volume 2 (On-Site Arrangements Only)

The travel authorizing/approving official or his or her designee (e.g., supervisor of the traveler) must review and sign travel claims to confirm the authorized travel. The reviewing official must have full knowledge of the employee's activities. He or she must ensure that: the claim is properly prepared in accordance with the pertinent regulations and agency procedures; a copy of authorization for travel is provided; the types of expenses claimed are authorized and allowable expenses; the amounts claimed are accurate; and the required receipts, statements, and justifications are attached with the voucher. Course content: travel orders; transportation allowances; contract city-pair fares; premium class travel; per diem allowances; contract travel office (CTO); actual expense; miscellaneous expenses; receipt requirements; submission of vouchers; and approving officials responsibilities.



## “NEW” ON-SITE SPECIAL

### 1705 – Advanced Travel Basics Four Hour Session

**Prerequisite:** Student must have successfully completed Course 1700 Travel Basics

This course consists of the basic rules, regulations, policies, and procedures for the approval, authorization, entitlement, arrangement, performance, and vouchering of official travel provided in the Travel Basics course, as well as a more in-depth review of necessary travel actions, requirements and procedures required before, during, and after official travel is completed.

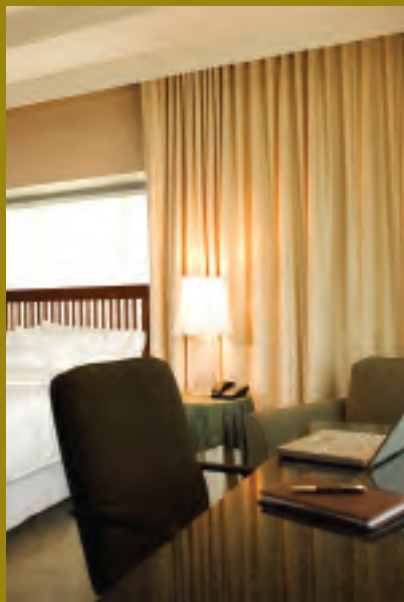
Intended for: New hires, interns, first time supervisors, new approving officials, new travel prepares or voucher examiners

### 1730 – Temporary Duty Travel: Federal Aviation Administration Travel Policy (FAA TP) Two Days

This course teaches students how to understand and compute temporary duty travel allowances and responsibilities in accordance with the Federal Aviation Administration Travel Policy (FAA TP).

Intended for FAA personnel only: FAA travel specialists, support staff, frequent travelers, authorizing/supervising/policy officials, new hires and interns.

This course is offered as an on-site special only. For more information, please call the GSA Professional Development and Training Section at (703) 605-0555, or email us at [travel.training@gsa.gov](mailto:travel.training@gsa.gov).



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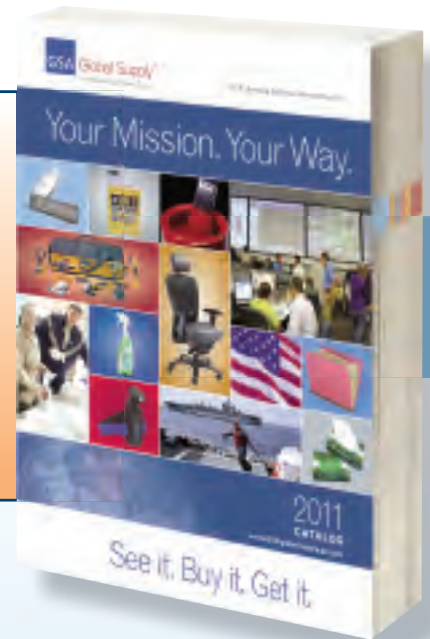
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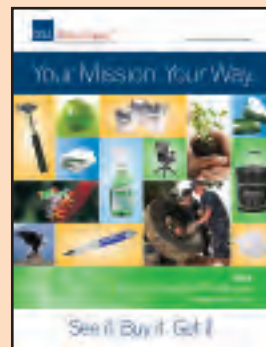
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**NSN** 7045-01-57-2661

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**Price** \$307.89 EA



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**Features** password protection.

**NSN** 7045-01-568-4204

**Size** Capacity: 4GB

**Price** \$86.45 EA



## Portable Hard Drive **NEW**

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**NSN** 7045-01-568-9695

**Size** 500GB

**Price** \$137.75 EA

## ▼ Personal Size Paper Shredder **NEW**



Hardened steel rollers ensure a lasting, precise cut and stand up to wear. Can handle staples and paper clips. Motor is thermally protected against overheating under prolonged use.

**Machine** cross cuts 1/8" x 1-1/8" up to 14 sheets per pass. This machine can be used to shred plastic cards. Features a wide 9-1/2" entry and a 7-1/2 gallon waste capacity. Recommended for offices with two to four users. Shipping weight 28-lbs.

**NSN** 7490-01-390-6163

**Size** 15 x 11 x 23"

**Price** \$383.98 EA

## Classification Folder NEW

This 8-part folder pressboard folder has 3 dividers with a durable Tyvek reinforced pleat that expands up to 3 inches. Includes 1 inch capacity metal prong fasteners on both sides of each divider and inside and back covers. **DD** **SKILCRAFT** **AbilityOne**

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◀ **NSN** 7530-01-572-6208

**Color** Earth Red

**Size** Letter Size

**Price** \$54.84 PG (contains 10 EA)

**NSN** 7530-01-572-6205

**Color** Earth Red

**Size** Legal Size

**Price** \$46.18 PG (contains 10 EA)

◀ **NSN** 7530-01-572-6207

**Color** Green

**Size** Letter Size

**Price** \$42.85 PG (contains 10 EA)

**NSN** 7530-01-572-6206

**Color** Green

**Size** Legal Size

**Price** \$46.18 PG (contains 10 EA)

## ▼ Laser and Inkjet Label NEW



High quality, bright white, printer labels are environmentally-friendly. Face sheet is made using 100% recycled post-consumer fiber and is processed chlorine-free (PCF). Labels are both acid-free and lignin-free and can safely be recycled. Compatible with both desktop laser and inkjet printers.



**Box includes 100 sheets with 30 labels each (for a total of 3,000 labels).**

ⓘ 18-month maximum shelf life (not extendable)

**NSN** 7530-01-514-4904

**Color** White

**Size** 1 x 2-5/8"

**Price** \$32.72 PG (contains 3000 EA)

**Package contains 100 sheets with 20 labels each (for a total of 2,000 labels).**

ⓘ 18-month maximum shelf life (not extendable)

**NSN** 7530-01-514-4913

**Color** White

**Size** 1 x 4"

**Price** \$32.58 PG (contains 2000 EA)

**Package contains 100 sheets with 10 labels each (for a total of 1,000 labels).**

ⓘ 18-month maximum shelf life (not extendable)

**NSN** 7530-01-514-4903

**Color** White

**Size** 2 x 4"

**Price** \$32.72 PG (contains 1000 EA)

## Structural Adhesive ►

This structural paste epoxy adhesive cures at room temperature and possesses excellent strength to a temperature of 350F/177C and higher. Its thixotropic nature and excellent high temperature, compressive strength also makes it ideal for potting, filling and liquid shim applications. This material is supplied as a 50 gram total weight kit in an E-Z pack pouch.

Hysol EA 9394 may be cured for 3 to 5 days @ 77F/25C to achieve normal performance.

Accelerated cures up to 200F/93C (for small masses only) may be used as an alternative.

For example, 1 hour @ 150F/66C will give a complete cure. Before applying make sure the bonding surface is clean, free of oil, and dry. The bonded parts must be held in place until the epoxy has set. The handling strength of the epoxy is reached after 24 hours at room temperature and support tooling may be removed after this point. The material is currently being used on the F-15, F-16, and F-18 and is purposed for use on the F-35. It is currently called out in Northrop Grumman Drawing Number GS100BD12, Honeywell International, Inc. Drawing Number 2-300-742-01, and Air Force Technical Order 1F-16C-3-1. **DD** **MSDS**



ⓘ 12-month maximum shelf life (extendable)

**NSN** 8040-01-169-5304

**Brand** Henkel-Loctite

**P/N** EA-9394

**Size** E-Z Pak Pouch Kits.

**Price** \$11.87 KT



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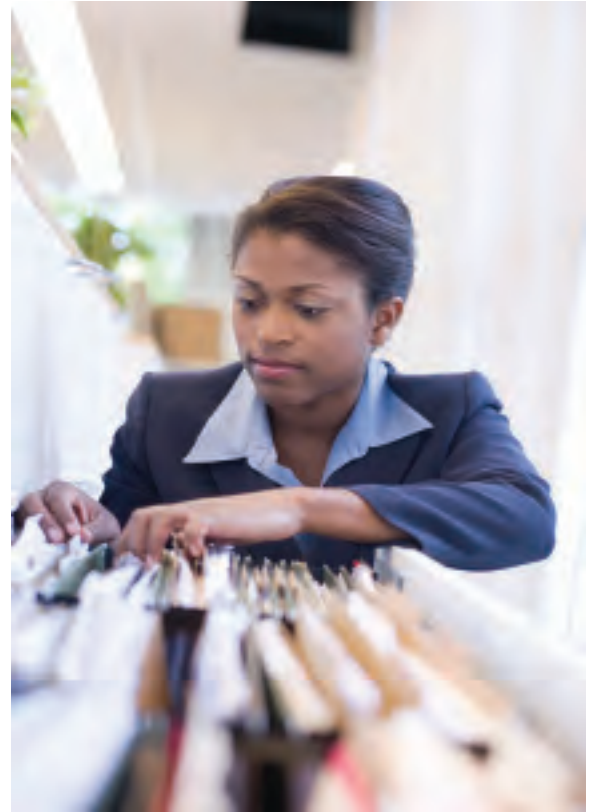
## ► Coffee Maker (Percolator)

This electric percolator is perfect for break rooms, cafeterias, large gatherings, or small offices. Makes 12 to 36 cups quickly and easily. Features highly polished aluminum, quick one cup per minute brewing, interior water level markings, auto temperature control, on/off switch, plastic basket, and cleaning tool included. Two-way (continuous flow or single cup serving) dripless faucet. Serving area under faucet accommodates cup with saucer.



**NSN** 7310-01-223-5093

**Price** \$70.20 EA



## Hand Sanitizer

Instant hand sanitizer has a pleasant fragrance, and is non-toxic, dye-free, and hypoallergenic. Contains moisturizers and vitamin E. Kills 99.99 percent of most common germs that may cause illness, in as little as 15 seconds. Use anytime, anyplace, without water or towels. Leaves hands feeling refreshed without stickiness or residue.

### ► Box contains 24 (4.25-oz) squeeze bottle.

① 36-month maximum shelf life (not extendable)

**NSN** 8520-01-490-7358

**Brand** GOJO Industries Inc.

**P/N** 9651-24 or equal

**Price** \$43.55 BX (contains 24 EA)



### ► Box contains 12, (12-oz) pump-bottles. Can be used with Places Holder NSN 4510-01-490-6456. [MSDS](#)

① 36-month maximum shelf life (not extendable)

**NSN** 8520-01-490-7365

**P/N** 9659-12 or equal

**Price** \$51.22 BX (contains 12 EA)



## ► Attaché Case

Locking molded plastic (attaché) style dispatch case with coarse-grained exterior finish, cloth lining, exterior hinges, interior hinges or stays, feet or bumpers, and two recess mounted latches. Lid interior has file pocket with two tiered full-size compartments, two exterior compartments, two adjustable retaining straps and small accessory pockets.

**NSN** 8460-00-782-6726


**Color** Black

**Size** 18-1/4 x 12-1/4 x 5-1/4"

**Price** \$50.31 EA



## Briefcase

▼ Soft, expandable briefcase with multi-compartment interior expands from 4 to 6". Conveniently organizes glasses, calculator, pens, pencils, and keys. 

Front flap with quick-release buckles features zipper pocket for passports and valuables. Removable, adjustable shoulder strap with molded pad provides full comfort. Double rear pocket can accommodate airline tickets or magazines. Perfect for laptop computers.

**NSN** 8460-01-364-9493

**Color** Black

**Size** 16 x 12"

**Price** \$35.70 EA



▼ Soft-sided steel-frame case with separate zip-down accessory compartment (opens to the outside) for small items, an expansion compartment for files and a separate compartment ideal for carrying a notebook computer. Case includes padded handles and a removable shoulder strap.

**NSN** 8460-01-413-6066

**Color** Black

**Size** 17" W x 12" H x 6" D

**Price** \$30.81 EA



▼ Pilot case on wheels has a large center compartment with one push release buckle that is capable of holding all of your documents. In front is a complete organizer pocket. Retractable handle can be pulled up or down.

**NSN** 8460-01-442-2475

**Color** Black

**Size** 20 x 15 x 10"

**Price** \$69.00 EA



▼ Hardshell system case, made of aluminum alloy with plywood backing. Flexible interior design accommodates notebook computers and printers with velcro security belts to hold them in place. Includes two changeable combination locks, ABS handle, and rounded metal corner reinforcements. Computer compartment: 17-1/2" L x 12-1/4" W x 3" D. Printer compartment: 17-1/2" L x 12-1/4" W x 2" D.

**NSN** 8460-01-445-8821

**Color** Aluminum

**Price** \$95.43 EA



## ◀ Investigator's/Auditor's Case

Smooth-grained leather briefcase has a leather handle, two buckled straps and a solid brass six-hole hasp-and-staple closure with padlock, two safety straps, three full-length pockets, and a pencil pocket.

**NSN** 8460-00-297-1507

**Color** Brown

**Size** 18 x 12 x 6"

**Price** \$225.68 EA





## Desktop Calculator



◀ Desktop, 12-digit two-color printing and display calculator uses 2 1/4" plain paper. A/C operated.

Features one or more memories, percent key, markup key and non-add key.

**NSN** 7420-01-174-5218

**Price** \$42.88 EA



◀ This desktop calculator is an eight-digit model that is solar powered. Features percent, square root, one or more memories.

**NSN** 7420-01-412-4135

**Price** \$6.95 EA

## ► Shredder (High Security)

Hardened steel rollers ensure a lasting, precise cut and stand up to wear. Motor is thermally protected against overheating under prolonged use.

High security level VI, 1/25 x 1/5" confetti cut for up to 5 sheets of paper per pass. Features a wide 10" entry and a 21 gallon waste container capacity. Recommended for offices with one to three users. Shipping weight 85-lbs.

**NSN** 7490-01-395-3355

**Size** 17.5"W x 13"D x 32.6"H

**Price** \$1,238.10 EA



## Paper/CD Shredder

► Fellowes shredder is ideal for small offices. Can be used with credit cards, paper clips and staples. Shredder has 10" throat opening and can shred up to 22 feet of paper per minute.



Cross cut 14 to 16 sheet capacity. Separate opening for destruction of CDs and DVDs.

**NSN** 7490-01-483-8991

**Brand** Fellowes

**P/N** 3200CC

**Color** Gray

**Size** 35"H x 20"W x 18"D

**Price** \$1,559.72 EA



## ▼ Notebook or Laptop Security Cable



"MicroSaver" security cable is a strong 6' steel cable that loops around an immovable object. Features a one-step key locking process. Works with the Kensington security slot found on nearly all notebook or laptop computers. Comes with two barrel style keys.



**NSN** 5340-01-384-2016

**P/N** P/N 64604US or equal

**Price** \$44.89 EA

► Hardened steel rollers ensure a lasting, precise cut and stand up to wear. Can handle paper clips and staples. Motor is thermally protected against overheating during prolonged use.

Machine strip cuts to 1/8" and will also cut disks, CD's, and credit cards. Cuts up to 23 sheets of paper per pass. Features a 10" wide entry and a 21 gallon waste capacity. Recommended for offices with three to four users. Shipping weight 80-lbs.

**NSN** 7490-01-390-6147

**Size** 17.5"W x 13.5"D x 32.6"H

**Price** \$645.00 EA



## ▼ Computer Cable Lock



Computer cable lock assembly is designed to secure up to four office components for security purposes. The components are secured by a cable routed through the permanently mounted, glue-on style fasteners, which are attached to selected components. Cable lock consist of a 10' cable, one Master Lock (with two keys), one hex nut fastener, three glue-on disc fasteners and adhesive. (Each cable lock is keyed individually)

**NSN** 5340-01-392-8449

**P/N** P/N KAB-105 or equal

**Price** \$37.13 EA

## ▼ Surge Suppressor (for Shipboard Use)



Six-outlet power strip for shipboard delta power systems. Navy-authorized surge and noise protection. Noise protection is 99.9% percent EMI/RFI to 60 dB. Meets UL marine 1449. Surge protection to 54,000 peak amps. 720 joules, sine wave tracking, surge protection/power on LED, triple thermal fused, dual pole switch. Aluminum body, six-foot SJ power cord. In accordance with CID A-A-50622.

**NSN** 6150-01-362-7192

**Price** \$63.86 EA

## Surge Suppressor

► Surge suppressor features: Six outlets, suppressor indicator light and 15 amp press-to-reset circuit breaker. Three-mode protection, clamping volts 330. Surge suppressor has a six-foot cord. UL 1449.

Response time is one nanosecond or less.  
Rating: 672 joules; maximum surge dissipation is 12,000 volts or greater and 12,000 amperes or greater. EMI/RFI rejection up to 50 dB from 100 KHz to 1 Mhz.

**NSN** 5920-01-384-7958

**Price** \$10.11 EA



► Six-outlet strip surge protector with its 15-foot cord virtually eliminates the need to run an additional extension cord. Features a LED surge indicator, LED wiring fault indicator, three-line protection, thermal safety fuse, and on/off switch. 15 amps, 210 joules, switch/circuit breaker. UL 1449.

**NSN** 5920-01-490-6691

**Price** \$15.25 EA



## ► Uninterruptible Power Supply

Power rating 425 volt-amperes, uses a 12 V sealed lead acid battery to provide 7 ampere-hours of energy, recharge time 8 hours, back-up time 10 to 20 minutes, with automatic voltage regulation, input voltage 85 percent to 120 percent of 115 V, output voltage 115 V, frequency 50 Hz or 60 Hz, surge protection 320 joules, two outlets, indicator lights and/or alarms for battery in use, battery low, and overload. Includes a DB9-RJ232 remote access port. Unit can be turned on without power, two-stage battery charging to prolong battery life. UL 1778.

**NSN** 6110-01-450-4385

**Price** \$70.90 EA



## ▼ Split Surge Suppressor

Eight-outlet split surge protector with fax and phone protection. This uniquely designed surge protector separates into two strips allowing you to place outlets where you need them most. Advanced level of protection against phone and power line surges. 330 volt clamping, joule rating 715. Features a 4-foot cord between units, six-foot power cord, and AC adapter spacing. UL 1449.



**NSN** 6150-01-477-7793

**Price** \$25.27 EA

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## Accounting Book

Book features a stiff cloth cover with square corners and stitched binding. Contains white sulfite writing paper.

**Opens at the side. Pages are ruled across the page, from left to right. Pages are not numbered. Index is not included.**

Contains 192 pages.

**NSN** 7530-00-222-3521

**Color** Olive Drab or Gray

**Size** 5-1/2 x 8"

**Price** \$2.79 EA

Contains 192 pages.

**NSN** 7530-00-222-3525

**Color** Olive Drab or Gray

**Size** 10-1/2 x 8"

**Price** \$3.55 EA

Contains 288 pages.

**NSN** 7530-00-286-8363

**Color** Olive Drab or Gray

**Size** 8-1/2 x 14"

**Price** \$7.41 EA

**Opens at the side. Pages are ruled across the 5-1/2" wide with four columns on the 8" side (journal ruled). Pages are not numbered. Index is not included.**

Contains 192 pages.

**NSN** 7530-00-286-6207

**Color** Olive Drab or Gray

**Size** 5-1/2 x 8"

**Price** \$2.79 EA

**Opens at the side and is alphabetically indexed throughout. Pages are not numbered.**

Contains 288 pages.

**NSN** 7530-00-222-3524

**Color** Olive Drab or Gray

**Size** 8-1/2 x 14"

**Price** \$9.02 EA

**Ruled paper. Opens at the end without index. Pages are not numbered.**

Contains 144 pages.

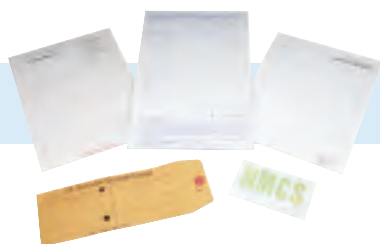
**NSN** 7530-00-243-9366

**Color** Olive Drab or Gray

**Size** 3-1/2 x 6"

**Price** \$9.94 DZ

## Optional Form



### ▲ OF 65-A: U.S. Government Messenger Envelope. ①

Contains 30% Recovered Material, Which Includes 30% Postconsumer Material

**NSN** 7540-00-117-8424

**Size** 4-1/8 x 9-1/2"

**Price** \$56.48 BX (contains 200 EA)



### ▲ OF 65-B: U.S. Government Messenger Envelope. ① **UNICOR**

Contains 30% Recovered Material, Which Includes 30% Postconsumer Material

**NSN** 7540-00-222-3467

**Size** 9-3/4 x 12"

**Price** \$35.10 BX (contains 250 EA)



### ▲ OF 65-C: U.S. Government Messenger Envelope. ①

Contains 30% Recovered Material, Which Includes 30% Postconsumer Material

**NSN** 7540-00-222-3468

**Size** 12 x 16"

**Price** \$76.50 BX (contains 250 EA)

OF 363: Memorandum of Call.

**100 sheets per pad, 20 pads per package.**

Form is available online for download and printing. Visit the GSA Forms Library at [www.gsa.gov/forms](http://www.gsa.gov/forms). ① **UNICOR**

Contains 30% Recovered Material, Which Includes 30% Postconsumer Material

**NSN** 7540-00-634-4018

**Size** 4 x 5-1/4"

**Price** \$7.18 PG (contains 20 EA)



## ▲ Banker Storage/Filing Box

Storage files feature durable multiple-thickness, corrugated fiberboard construction. Designed with smooth rolled edges, tote handles, lift-off lid and a large labeling area. **CPG**

**Holds letter size files. Stacking strength: 450 lbs.**

♻️ Contains 25% Recovered Material, Which Includes 25% Postconsumer Material

**NSN** 7520-01-349-8776

**Color** Off-White

**Size** 12"W x 10"H x 15"D

**Price** \$20.92 DZ

## Special-Use Box ►

This corrugated, fiberboard box features lapped joints secured by wire stitching. The lock-bottom box includes hand holes and has a bursting strength of 275 psi.



Use exclusively for retiring, storing, and shipping paper files to the Federal Records Centers. **CPG** **AbilityOne**

♻️ 40% Postconsumer Material

**NSN** 8115-00-117-8249

**Color** White

**Size** 14-3/4 x 12 x 9-1/2"

**Price** \$48.02 BD (contains 25 EA)

Use exclusively for retiring, storing, and shipping magnetic tapes to the Federal Archives and Records Center. **DD**

**NSN** 8115-00-117-8347

**Color** White

**Size** 14-3/4 x 11-3/4 x 11-3/4"

**Price** \$60.61 BD (contains 25 EA)

## ◀ Mail Cart

Carbon steel mail cart features a non-nesting design and two removable baskets. The top basket has adjustable snap-on file guide bars. Cart also has two swivel wheels and two fixed wheels.



Upper basket measures 24" long, 17" wide and 11" high. Lower basket measures 24" long, 17" wide and 7" high.

**NSN** 7290-00-260-1147

**Size** 28" L, 17" W, 34" H

**Price** \$215.97 EA

Upper basket measures 36" long, 17" wide and 11" high. Lower basket measures 36" long, 17" wide and 7" high.

**NSN** 7290-00-893-7339

**Size** 41-1/2" L, 21" W, 37" H

**Price** \$266.90 EA

## Heavy-Duty Travel Cart ►

Travel cart handles up to 250-lbs. with ease. Ideal for moving boxes, publications, luggage, and more. Features a sturdy tubular steel frame and platform. Oversized 6" diameter ball-bearing wheels. Padded, telescoping pull handle. Extended size: 15-1/2" W x 44-1/2" H x 19" D; Folded size: 15-1/2" W x 27" H x 6-1/2" D; Platform size: 12" x 12".

**NSN** 8460-01-490-7344

**Price** \$57.19 EA





## ◀ U.S. Flag Set (Indoor)

Indoor, colorfast American flag has Schiffli embroidered stars and sewn stripes. Heading has leather tabs at each end for attachment to pole. Flag is made of heavyweight nylon.

**Includes U.S. Flag adorned with gold fringe, cord, and tassels. Accessories consist of a metal flag stand, a metal eagle flagstaff ornament and a wood flagpole. Complete flag kit.**

Flagpole is 7 ft. high.

**NSN** 8345-01-295-5987

**Size** 3' hoist x 5', 8-3/8" fly

**Price** \$208.65 SE



## ▲ U.S. Flag (Indoor)

Indoor, colorfast American flag has Schiffli embroidered stars and sewn stripes. Heading has leather tabs at each end for attachment to pole. Made of heavyweight nylon.

**Without gold fringe, cord, or tassels. Sold as flag only.**

**NSN** 8345-00-151-6487

**Size** 3' hoist x 5', 8-3/8" fly

**Price** \$22.26 EA



## ▲ U.S. Flag (Outdoor)

Show pride and patriotism with an outdoor, colorfast American flag. Features Schiffli embroidered stars and reinforced duck heading.

**Features grommets on heading for attaching to pole.**

Made of cotton.

**NSN** 8345-00-682-6857

**Size** 2', 4-7/16" hoist x 4', 6" fly

**Price** \$19.32 EA

**NSN** 8345-00-682-6856

**Size** 3', 6" hoist x 6', 7-3/4" fly

**Price** \$24.46 EA

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